DAILY EXPRESS

CAMPAIGNING FOR A BETTER BRITAIN

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2026 £2

Wes Streeting 'listens' to our campaign for better mental health support for sufferers

THANK YOU... FOR BACKING CANCER CARE CALL

EXCLUSIVE

BY **ROBERT FISK**

CANCER patients will get personalised plans to help them cope with the psychological toll of their diagnosis, in a major victory for the Express's Cancer Care campaign.

Health Secretary Wes Streeting – himself a kidney cancer survivor – called the change "the biggest shift in how we support cancer patients in a generation".

He revealed he and the NHS "listened" to this newspaper's plea for better mental help for

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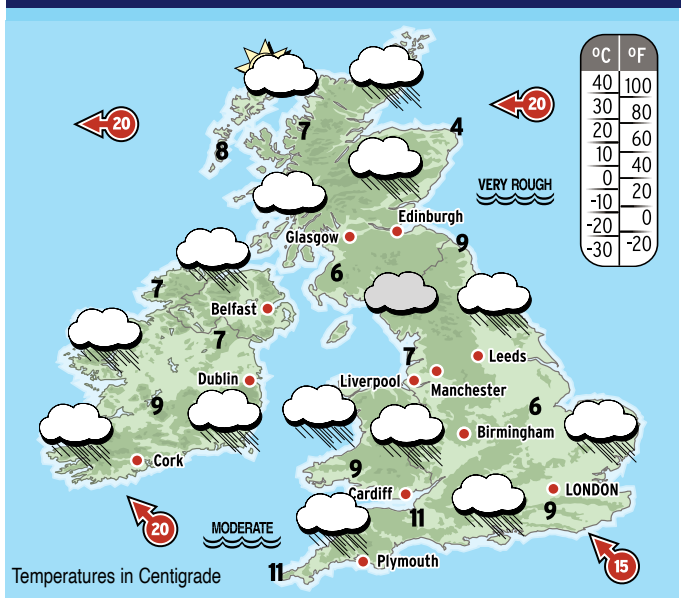
WEATHER FORECAST



Today's summary: Wet morning, cool evening rain

North West: Overcast and wet with patchy light rain or drizzle. Moderate north-westerly winds. High 6C (43F).

Northern Ireland: Wet with outbreaks of light rain and drizzle expected. Moderate north-westerly winds. High 7C (45F).

Wales: Wet start, clearing later with variable skies. Moderate winds. Cool becoming mild. High 10C (50F).

Midlands: Wet with rain and drizzle, mostly light and patchy though. Moderate north-westerly winds. High 7C (45F).

North East/Yorks: Dull and wet with outbreaks of rain, turning heavy later. Light winds. High 5C (41F).

Scotland: Overcast with periods of drizzle. Cloudy later. Breezy with brisk winds. Mild conditions. High 6C (43F).

East Anglia: Dull and grey with outbreaks of light rain and drizzle. Gentle southerly winds. High 6C (43F).

London/South East: Grey and wet with patchy light rain expected. Moderate south-westerly winds. High 10C (50F).

South: Cloudy, with light rain for a time and heavy showers later. Moderate northerly winds. High 11C (52F).

South West: Mostly cloudy with the chance of thundery showers. Gentle north-westerly winds. High 11C (52F).

Channel Isles: Dull and wet with rain or drizzle, mainly light and patchy. Brisk westerly winds. High 10C (50F).

Sea: North Sea: Rough. Irish Sea: Very rough. Channel: Moderate.

UK OUTLOOK TOMORROW: Expect rain showers throughout with brisk winds. Temperatures will remain on the cooler side, with little change in conditions expected.

SIX-DAY FORECAST Temperatures in Centigrade

	FRI min	FRI max	SAT min	SAT max	SUN min	SUN max	MON min	MON max	TUE min	TUE max	WED min	WED max
London	7	11	6	12	6	12	6	10	7	11	6	11
Belfast	6	6	6	8	6	9	6	8	6	8	4	7
Birmingham	5	8	6	10	6	10	5	9	6	9	5	9
Cardiff	7	10	6	10	6	10	6	9	7	10	6	10
Glasgow	5	6	6	9	5	9	5	9	5	9	4	8
Manchester	6	7	7	10	6	10	6	9	6	9	5	9
Newcastle	4	5	6	8	5	8	5	8	5	7	4	7
Norwich	6	7	6	10	6	10	5	9	6	9	5	9
Plymouth	8	11	8	11	8	11	8	11	8	11	8	11

Britain yesterday

24 hours to 5pm	SUN (hrs)	RAIN (ins)	TEMP (min)	TEMP (max)
Aberdeen	0.1	0.60	2	4
Aberporth	0.7	0.01	4	7
Alnwick	0.0	0.08	2	4
Belfast	0.1	0.06	4	8
Birmingham	0.0	0.03	2	6
B'mouth	0.3	0.40	6	8
Bristol	0.0	0.63	4	8
Cardiff	0.1	0.74	4	8
Durham	0.0	0.24	2	4
Edinburgh	0.2	0.04	4	6
Glasgow	0.7	0.01	3	6
Hull	0.0	0.00	2	5
Ipswich	0.0	0.02	3	7
Leeds	0.0	0.16	1	4
Lincoln	0.0	0.00	2	5
London	0.0	0.32	4	8
Manchester	0.2	0.00	2	6
Oxford	0.0	0.40	2	7
S'hampton	0.1	0.47	6	7
St Andrews	0.0	0.17	2	5

Moon, sun and tides

MOON rises: 9.41pm, sets: 8.45am
SUN rises London: 7.32am, sets: 4.57pm
Manchester rises: 7.47am, sets: 4.59pm

Last Quarter 09 February

HIGH TIDE

London B'ge	(3.59am), (4.22pm)
Liverpool	(1.08am), (1.22pm)
Greenock	(2.50am), (2.41pm)
Dover	(1.04am), (1.26pm)

Britain Extremes: (24 hours to 11pm Wednesday)
Warmest: Bude, 11c (52f).
Coldest: Lerwick, 0c (32f).
Wettest: Craibstone No 2, 0.96ins.
Sunniest: Camborne, 3.5hrs.

Lighting-up times

Belfast	5.10pm-8.03am	Glasgow	4.59pm-8.01am
Birmingham	5.01pm-7.40am	London	4.57pm-7.30am
Bristol	5.07pm-7.40am	Manchester	4.59pm-7.45am
		Newcastle	4.51pm-7.47am

Europe forecast

Today			Tomorrow		
Amsterdam	Cloudy	4C/39F	Amsterdam	Rain	6C/43F
Brussels	Rain	9C/48F	Brussels	Rain	11C/52F
Dublin	Rain	7C/45F	Dublin	Rain	8C/46F
Frankfurt	Fair	6C/43F	Frankfurt	Rain	5C/41F
Geneva	Rain	11C/52F	Geneva	Showers	10C/50F
Lisbon	Thunder	16C/61F	Lisbon	Thunder	13C/55F
Madrid	Showers	14C/57F	Madrid	Rain	10C/50F
Paris	Rain	13C/55F	Paris	Rain	14C/57F
Rome	Rain	15C/59F	Rome	Showers	16C/61F

Around the world yesterday

		C	F			C	F			C	F
Amsterdam	Fair	8	46	Hong Kong	Fair	20	68	New York	Fair	-2	28
Athens	Cloudy	16	61	Istanbul	Fair	10	50	Nice	Rain	11	52
Barcelona	Shwrs	12	54	Jersey	Cloudy	9	48	Nicosia	Sunny	17	63
Berlin	Cloudy	-6	21	Larnaca	Sunny	19	66	Perth	Sunny	27	81
Budapest	Drizzle	2	36	Las Palmas	Sunny	20	68	Prague	Cloudy	0	32
Cairo	Sunny	18	64	Los Angeles	Sunny	23	73	Singapore	Fair	31	88
Cape Town	Cloudy	27	81	Luxor	Sunny	21	70	Stockholm	Cloudy	-5	23
Casablanca	Cloudy	19	66	Malaga	Rain	15	59	Sydney	Sunny	26	79
Corfu	Fair	17	63	Mallorca	Rain	12	54	Tel Aviv	Fair	19	66
Dublin	Cloudy	7	45	Malta	Fair	15	59	Tenerife	Sunny	22	72
Dubrovnik	Cloudy	15	59	Melbourne	Fair	26	79	Toronto	Snow	-4	25
Faro	Rain	16	61	Miami	Cloudy	16	61	Tunis	Fair	15	59
Florence	Rain	9	48	Moscow	Cloudy	-17	1	Venice	Rain	8	46
Gibraltar	Rain	17	63	Nairobi	Sunny	24	75	Vienna	Cloudy	1	34
Guernsey	Cloudy	9	48	New Delhi	Sunny	20	68	Warsaw	Snow	-8	18

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Six cleared of hammer raid on 'Israel arms firm'

Cop 'broke back' in Palestine Action attack

BY **PAUL JEEVES** Crime Editor

SIX Palestine Action activists who raided the British branch of an Israeli defence firm have been cleared of aggravated burglary.

Samuel Corner, Leona Kamio, Fatema Rajwani, Zoe Rogers, Charlotte Head and Jordan Devlin were accused of the break-in, which resulted in a female police officer's back being broken.

Five of the six were bailed pending a potential retrial on charges of criminal damage and violent disorder, for which the jury reached partial or no verdicts.

Corner, 23, who was accused of causing GBH with intent by striking police sergeant Kate Evans in her back with a sledgehammer, was remanded in custody after that verdict was not reached. Prosecutors will now decide whether to seek retrials.

Bodycam footage shows one raider wielding a sledgehammer in attack at Israeli defence firm

Terror

The break-in took place at Elbit Systems in Bristol in the early hours of August 6, 2024. Palestine Action, which was banned by the UK government as a terror group 11 months later, claimed the site was involved in making and supplying weapons to Israel, which the company strongly denies.

Woolwich crown court was told that charity worker Head, 29, drove a prison van into the factory's fence before the vehicle was used as a "battering ram" to get inside the building.

Prosecutors claimed the group swore at and whipped security guards, swung sledgehammers at them and sprayed one with a fire extinguisher.

Body-worn footage from one worker shows three defendants shouting "f*** off" as they approach him – one holding a lighted flare and the two others wielding sledgehammers.

PS Evans told the jury she believed her spine had been "shattered" when she was struck while arresting a female activist. She suffered a fracture to her lumbar spine and was off work for three months. The jury deliberated for 36 hours and 34 minutes but could not reach a verdict for charges of criminal damage against all six defendants.

No verdict was reached on charges of violent disorder against Kamio, 30, Corner and Head. Rajwani, 21, Rogers, 22, and Devlin, 31, were found not guilty of violent disorder.

Avon and Somerset Police Federation chair Tom Gent said: "We expect the full support of the criminal justice system when our officers are harmed in the line of duty. We wait to hear whether there will be a retrial."

CORRECTIONS AND COMPLAINTS

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Pictures: RICK GUEST AND OLIVIA POMP

Ballet flies high for centenary

Dancers celebrate the Royal Ballet School's 100th anniversary with a stunning display

BY **GILES SHEDRICK** Chief Reporter

A DANCER appears to soar like a butterfly in one of a series of images celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Royal Ballet School.

The school's most famous graduate, Darcey Bussell, tells how it helped her negotiate her teenage years when she felt a failure.

The former Strictly Come Dancing judge, 56, who enrolled aged 13 in 1982, says: "It took all my energy in the right direction – it let me focus. I could work my socks off and come up with results. It seemed to make sense."

The Royal Ballet was founded by Ninette de Valois in London in 1826.

Potential

Admission to its lower and upper schools is based on dancing talent and potential, with nine in 10 current students relying on financial support.

Past pupils, including Royal Ballet principals Francesca Hayward, Yasmine Naghdi and Matthew Ball, feature in the book Strength and Grace: Portraits of the Royal Ballet School, published for the centenary.

● Read the full feature in the March issue of Tatler magazine, available via digital download and on newsstands from today.

FROM PAGE ONE

patients facing devastating diagnoses. The Express crusade has been led by me. I am an Express reporter with incurable stage-four bowel cancer.

I "allowed myself a scream of joy" as the major new initiative was announced.

Mr Streeting heaped praise on this newspaper, adding: "The Express campaign led by Robert Fisk has highlighted the mental health challenges many cancer patients face, and the need to ensure they are supported in all areas of life.

"We listened, and the NHS will now provide a personalised cancer plan for every patient, including mental health support for every patient who is struggling.

"Care doesn't stop when treatment ends."

The Health Secretary unveiled Labour's National Cancer Plan on Tuesday, covering all aspects of a patient's journey including physical, mental and social needs.

He said: "If you've ever sat in a waiting room dreading what comes next or laid awake at 3am wondering how you'll pay the bills while you're off work for treatment, you'll know that cancer doesn't just attack your body – it takes over your whole life."

Referring to his own battle with the disease after being diagnosed in 2021, he added: "I was fortunate. I had a supportive employer, a family who could rally around me and the financial security to focus on getting better. But that's not everyone's reality – and it shouldn't be based on luck.

"For too long, we've treated the tumour and left patients to figure out the rest on their own. That ends now." I have fought for better mental health support for cancer patients for more than a year, after witnessing how too many fell through the cracks in care.

EXPRESS VOTE

Can the NHS deliver the government's Personalised Cancer Plan?

YES: 0901 133 4440
NO: 0901 133 4441

Calls cost 50p plus network access charge

Yes text DXYES to 63333
No text DXNO to 63333

Texts cost 50p plus standard network rate

You must have the bill payer's permission. Vote closes at midnight tonight. The Daily Express may contact you by post, SMS and/or email with offers, goods or services that may be of interest to you. To stop receiving SMS messages text 'NSNOINFO' to the originating number. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390.

The Express has highlighted how NHS holistic-needs assessments – questionnaires to identify a patient's physical, emotional, social, spiritual and practical concerns – were not being used consistently across the country. And we led a coalition of 17 charities and three survivors, in writing to Mr Streeting ahead of the plan's publication.

From this year, all patients will be given personalised needs assessments at the point of diagnosis, which will be used to develop their Personalised Cancer Plan.

They will also receive an end-of-treatment summary to avoid the cliff edge that many face when chemotherapy or surgery is over, providing guidance on warning signs, who to call with concerns and where to find support, such as physiotherapy, counselling or community help groups.

Labour said the documents will help patients and clinicians understand the support needed, much of which will be accessed through new neighbourhood health services.

The move was welcomed by charities including Macmillan Cancer Support, which said the assessments "will make a real difference". Speaking of the National Cancer Plan, CEO Gemma Peters said: "Someone in the UK is diagnosed with cancer at least every 75 seconds. This plan is an opportunity to ensure every one of them gets the support they need from the moment they hear the words, 'You have cancer'."

Dame Laura Lee, boss of cancer-care charity Maggie's, said: "A cancer diagnosis knocks the ground from under you. People come into Maggie's centres with the weight of the world on their shoulders, not only worried about treatment and its side-effects but the wider impact on their work, finances, relationships and much more.

"It is hugely encouraging the government has recognised the toll it takes on every aspect of someone's life, which can continue long after treatment ends. The new measures will ensure everyone receives tailored support covering everything from exercise and employment to mental health and nutrition."

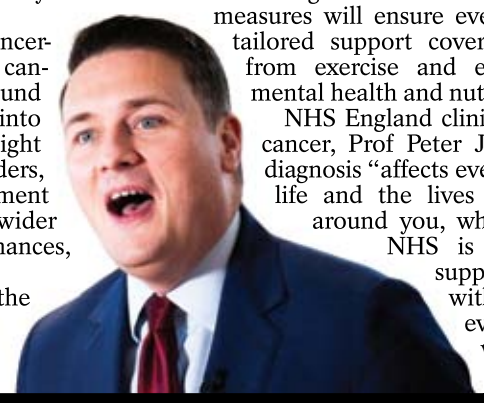
NHS England clinical director for cancer, Prof Peter Johnson, said a diagnosis "affects every part of your life and the lives of the people around you, which is why the NHS is committed to supporting people with cancer in every possible way, from the best treatment and clear information to psychological and practical help".

Other key points include a pledge to increase five-year survival rates from 60% to 75% by 2035, and a £2.3billion investment in scanners, digital tech and automation to deliver 9.5 million extra tests by 2029.

Families of children with cancer will be able to apply for travel support costs.

In his foreword to the national plan, Mr Streeting recalled being told he had cancer, writing: "When my urologist called to say I had kidney cancer my world turned upside down. It was like time stood still as I felt the rising sense of fear and foreboding all cancer patients describe."

OPINION: PAGE 12



Mr Streeting has pledged to raise cancer survival rates

'For too long we've treated the tumour and left the patients to figure out the rest. That ends now'

HAPPINESS isn't an emotion I'm used to feeling as someone with stage four incurable bowel cancer who doesn't know when will be the last day I wake up.

But today I'm allowing myself a scream of joy as it seems that Wes Streeting has listened to the Daily Express and the key messages of our Cancer Care campaign.

With the support of readers like you, charities and campaigners across the land, we have highlighted how the toughest part of cancer is the mental health aspect.

Cancer is the hardest thing most people will ever go through in their lifetime, and mental health issues are a core side-effect of the devastating disease.

There's the 3am thoughts of despair, the loneliness, the guilt and the worries about providing for a family when the gruelling treatment means you cannot work.

But, for too long, cancer teams have preferred to tackle the easier, physical side-effects, like fatigue, diarrhoea and rashes caused by immunotherapy.

This ends today. For more than a year we have been calling for all cancer patients to have mental health support during and after treatment.

And in measures revealed yesterday the Health Secretary showed he had listened. Now every patient will get a personalised cancer plan that goes beyond treatment and diagnosis and covers the full impact of cancer on their life – from anxiety and fatigue to diet and getting back to work.

They will also, says Mr Streeting, get support once they have got the all-clear, to help them through the psychological toll that cancer has had on their lives.

But before I scream with joy too loudly, it's important to remember that these things will only work if hospitals implement them.

Now is the time for medical teams to step up and ensure the measures actually happen for their patients.

Personalised plans can't just be another NHS thing that's seen as nice to have but doesn't materialise.

They need to be in all cancer hospitals as soon as possible to help people with cancer live the best lives they can.

COMMENT

ROBERT FISK
Express News Reporter

King in photo on Instagram yesterday

TO READ ALL THE BEST POLITICAL STORIES OF THE DAY GO TO EXPRESS.CO.UK/POLITICS

Princess of Wales in World Cancer Day social media post

EXPRESS CRUSADE CANCER CARE

Catherine's inspiring message of solidarity

THE Princess of Wales gave patients a message of hope and solidarity on World Cancer Day yesterday.

Reflecting on her own cancer journey, Catherine spoke of the "fear and exhaustion" that accompanies a diagnosis in a film released by Kensington Palace.

In a deeply personal message, Catherine, 44, said: "Today is a reminder of the importance of care, understanding and hope. Please know you are not alone." The short video also showed her visit to the Royal Marsden Hospital, of which she is joint patron alongside her husband the Prince of Wales, in January last year.

She added in the film: "On World Cancer Day, my thoughts are with everyone who is facing a cancer diagnosis, undergoing treatment or finding their way through recovery. Cancer touches so many lives.

"As anyone who has experienced this journey will know, it's not linear. There are moments of fear and exhaustion... but also moments of strength, kindness and profound connection."

BY **EMILY FERGUSON** Royal Editor

Earlier yesterday, the King marked the day by thanking those who "work tirelessly to save and improve lives". Resharing his Stand Up to Cancer message first issued on December 12, the 77-year-old monarch added: "Throughout my own cancer journey, I have been profoundly moved by what I can only call the 'community of care' that surrounds every cancer patient."

The King and the Princess of Wales were both diagnosed with cancer in early 2024, and both posted social media pictures marking World Cancer Day yesterday. Catherine had six months of chemotherapy before announcing she was in remission last January, while the King continues to be treated for the disease.

BATTLE WITH RARE CONDITION AND A LACK OF TREATMENTS

KERIE Ivory has been locked in a 14-year battle with neuroendocrine cancer, enduring a nervous wait for her tumours to grow larger so she can be treated.

The mother-of-two, 52, first struggled to be diagnosed, as many GPs have never heard of the disease. And then she had to endure a wait for treatment as many of the usual therapies are not very effective with slow-growing tumours.

Ms Ivory, from Buckinghamshire, said: "Now that I am living with it, I think I find the lack of treatment options harder. When I had it in the first instance, and I had the surgery to remove it, life got back to normal. And when I had my first recurrence in my liver, and I had surgery to remove that, life got back to normal.

"But when it came back again, and they couldn't remove it, that's when my health took a real downturn.

"The incidence of neuroendocrine cancer is going up. So something has to be done as otherwise, more people won't get an early diagnosis."

Waiting 4.5 years for diagnosis of 'invisible' disease

BY **ROBERT FISK**

PEOPLE with an "invisible" cancer wait an average of 4.5 years for diagnosis – often too late to save their life.

Neuroendocrine cancers, which start in the nerve and gland cells responsible for hormones, are becoming more common.

More than 6,000 people in England are told they have the disease each year after an "isolating and frightening" delay – often including a misdiagnosis – says Neuroendocrine Cancer UK. It called for better education, and diagnosis to be speeded up.

Chief Lisa Walker said: "Most healthcare professionals don't have any training on neuroendocrine cancer.

"When they are seeing a patient, it's not even at the back of their head."

There are two main types – neuroendocrine tumours (NETs) and fast-growing neuroendocrine carcinomas.

Apple founder Steve Jobs, *inset*, and singer Aretha Franklin died from pancreatic neuroendocrine cancers. Rates of the group of diseases soared by 371% between 1995 and 2018, compared to 116% for most.

Yet more than half are diagnosed at stage three or four, limiting treatment options and prognosis.

The disease can affect parts of the body such as stomach, bowel and lungs.

Symptoms may include weight loss, fatigue, wind, diarrhoea, pain, bloating, asthma-like issues, flushing rash and persistent cough.

These often lead to misdiagnoses for asthma, menopause or irritable bowel syndrome.

Prof Raj Srirajaskanthan of King's College Hospital, London, said: "The turning point occurs when they are finally referred to a specialist NET Centre. The relief is palpable." The health department highlighted the National Cancer Plan, adding: "We will supercharge care from diagnosis to treatment, from trials to technology."

COMMENT

WES STREETING

Secretary of State for Health

WHEN the Express's own Robert Fisk wrote to me about his experience following his stage four bowel cancer diagnosis, his words stayed with me.

His honesty about the emotional toll laid bare something our health service has got wrong for far too long.

Cancer takes over your whole life. The fears about how you'll pay the bills. Worrying about how your loved ones will cope. The anxiety that persists long after treatment ends.

It's not good enough to treat the physical conditions and let patients figure out the rest alone.

Too often patients face a cliff edge after cancer diagnosis or treatment. The support system that everyone should have access to after a life-changing experience often isn't there.

I was fortunate. When I received my own cancer diagnosis, I had an understanding employer and a family who rallied around me.

But that kind of support shouldn't depend on luck or circumstance.

The National Cancer Plan I launched this week puts this right.

From this year, every cancer patient will receive a personalised assessment of their needs at diagnosis – not just their medical or physical needs, but their emotional and mental health needs too.

This will inform a tailored plan covering everything from counselling to help returning to work. Care shouldn't stop when treatment ends.

We're also investing an additional £688million in mental health services, expanding NHS talking therapies to support hundreds of thousands more people.

The Express and Robert Fisk campaigned for this change and helped shape a plan to transform cancer care.

This is care that fits around people's lives. And it's long overdue.

DAY OF DRAMA AS LABOUR

MAXWELL'S EMAIL INDICATES ANDREW, GIUFFRE PIC IS REAL

The photo of Andrew, Virginia Giuffre and Maxwell

BY **LAURAN O'TOOLE**

THE infamous photo of Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor with his arm around Virginia Giuffre is real, an email by Jeffrey Epstein's former girlfriend Ghislaine Maxwell indicates.

The image, said to have been taken inside Maxwell's home in Mayfair, Central London, shows the then-prince clasping a teenage Giuffre. For years, Andrew has disputed its authenticity. But a bombshell email by Maxwell, amongst millions of Epstein files released last week, seems to suggest it is real.

The email was from Maxwell to sex offender Epstein, asking for his help as she drafted a statement to push back against escalating press allegations.

The email reads: "In 2001 I was in London when [redacted] met a number of friends of mine including Prince Andrew.

"A photograph was taken as I imagine she wanted to show it to friends and family.

"I never asked [redacted] to give him a massage. Prince Andrew came to my house to visit me – [redacted] was in the house and they did meet." She nevertheless claimed she had no knowledge of Ms Giuffre "having sexual activity" with Andrew.

The late financier replied saying her statement left "too many unanswered questions". He added: "Her and Andrew?... whats [sic] the deal here? why is she there."

Removal vans at the sprawling Royal Lodge as Andrew moves house

'Mandelson betrayed our

Mandelson has a laugh with PM in Washington last year. Right, aide Morgan McSweeney

KEIR Starmer's leadership was in freefall last night after a Labour revolt led him into a humiliating U-turn over Peter Mandelson.

Arch-rival Angela Rayner spearheaded a move to strong-arm the Prime Minister over the release of documents about how the Labour grandee became US ambassador.

It came after Sir Keir admitted that when he handed Lord Mandelson the plum diplomatic job in 2024 he knew the peer had maintained his friendship with Jeffrey Epstein after the financier's 2008 conviction for soliciting a minor.

Angry Labour MPs lashed out at Sir Keir, with one telling the Express his leadership is effectively over. One moderate backbencher said: "It feels existential for Keir."

Another said: "This is part of a pattern, which we also saw with the welfare vote, where they get it terribly wrong and have to be dragged kicking and screaming to

BY **MARTYN BROWN** and **JONATHAN WALKER**

the right position by the MPs. This cannot continue."

A third, who compared the scandal to the Profumo affair, said: "He is finished. This is it. I don't know if it will be this week or next week or later, but he has to go."

Former shadow chancellor John McDonnell told ITV News the PM should consider quitting.

The government is now expected to publish documents relating to

Security

Lord Mandelson's appointment as ambassador, including details on how he was vetted.

The files had been set for release by the Cabinet Office and Downing Street, but senior Labour MPs including the PM's former deputy Ms Rayner said No10 should not decide what material is published.

Instead intelligence and security committee members will say which documents are made public. But last night the Metropolitan Police said it had asked the government not to release certain documents that could undermine its investigation into Mandelson.

Cabinet Office minister Chris Ward said the files would be released "as quickly as possible".

At least one Labour minister, Hilary Benn, was said to be on resignation watch last night.

Sir Keir was also coming under intense pressure to sack his Chief of Staff Morgan McSweeney, who was understood to have been the biggest cheerleader for Lord Mandelson's appointment.

It came after Tory leader Kemi Badenoch accused Sir Keir of a "cover-up" over the scandal.

There were gasps in the Commons chamber as the PM admitted knowing of Lord Mandelson's continuing relationship with Epstein when he appointed him as ambassador to the US.

At Prime Minister's Questions Mrs Badenoch asked if the official security vetting he had received

Removers in as Andrew dislodged

BY **EMILY FERGUSON**

THE last of Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor's belongings were gathered up from Royal Lodge yesterday, after the disgraced former prince moved out of the Windsor mansion on Monday night.

Removal vans were pictured arriving at the 30-room property yesterday morning, after it was revealed that Andrew had vacated his home of more than 20 years under the cover of darkness.

It is understood he has temporarily moved into secluded Wood Farm Cottage on the King's private Sandringham Estate, a home loved by the late Prince Philip, who spent much of his retirement there.

He will then eventually move into nearby Marsh Farm once urgent renovations have been completed.

Rushed

Andrew was originally due to vacate Royal Lodge next week. But as new allegations concerning his relationship with the late sex offender Jeffrey Epstein emerged last Friday, it is understood that the plans were rushed forward.

A friend told a national newspaper: "He had planned to cling on at Royal Lodge a little longer but with the latest batch of Epstein files it was made clear to him that it was time to go.

"Leaving was so humiliating for him that he chose to do it under the cover of darkness.

"Theoretically, he could have stayed until Marsh Farm was ready but the headlines were only getting worse."

Andrew has strenuously denied any wrongdoing.

country and Parliament'

while considering the appointment had mentioned the ongoing friendship. He admitted: "Yes, it did."

Mrs Badenoch accused him of "injecting Mandelson's poison into the heart of government", saying his "catastrophic lack of judgment...has harmed the special relationship, endangered national security, compromised our diplomacy and embarrassed our nation".

Sir Keir insisted Mandelson had "completely misrepresented the extent of his relationship with Epstein and lied throughout the process" of security vetting.

He said: "I regret appointing him. If I knew then what I know now, he never would have been anywhere near government." Tory MP and Express columnist Esther McVey told MPs: "It puts into question every judgment of this Prime Minister, from Chagos to China to the Northern Ireland Troubles Act.

"This...is the crumbling of Starmer. His judgment is poor, his judgment is ruining this country and the Labour Party."

Earlier the PM said Lord Mandelson had been removed from the Privy Council.

Leaked

He has also quit the House of Lords, though his peerage remains until there is a change in the rules.

It came after a criminal investigation was launched into claims he leaked government intelligence to Epstein, who killed himself in a US jail in 2019 awaiting trial on child sex trafficking charges. Police are expected to interview several politicians as part of their inquiries.

Former PM Gordon Brown sent Met Police chief Sir Mark Rowley "relevant" information into his former colleague's alleged disclosure of market sensitive and confidential information to Epstein. Mr Brown said Lord Mandelson's alleged "inexcusable and unpatriotic act" had happened at a time when the government was trying to address the financial crisis.

Last night Reform UK leader Nigel Farage urged the European Anti-Fraud Office to probe Lord Mandelson's tenure as EU trade commissioner from 2004 to 2008.

He claimed there were "potential fraud, corruption and ethics violations" based on files that appeared to show Lord Mandelson leaking the EU's €500billion Greece bail-out hours before it was announced.

Lord Mandelson was approached for comment, and while he has yet to speak publicly, the BBC said it understood he maintains he did not act criminally and that his actions were not for personal gain.

He served twice in Tony Blair's administrations, and was twice forced to resign in scandals, before being brought back as Mr Brown's deputy and Business Secretary from 2008 until 2010.

OPINION: PAGE 12

ANALYSIS

MARTYN BROWN

Political Editor

THE Peter Mandelson scandal has not only buried his own political career, it could end Keir Starmer's too.

It is staggering that the Prime Minister appointed a man with a murky track record of political scandals, as US ambassador, despite knowing that he had remained matey with convicted paedophile Jeffrey Epstein.

In times of crisis, you need friends.

Sir Keir has very few. Certainly not on the Labour backbenches.

That was evidently clear in Prime Minister's Questions as the ashen-faced Labour leader fumbled with his papers and garbled on aimlessly. Never before have I seen a Prime Minister so ineffectual. He had no fight in him.

His leadership is now on life support and it was somewhat eyebrow-raising that Angela Rayner appeared to spearhead a backbench revolt over the Mandelson files.

While the PM was crumbling in the Commons, another potential Labour leader, Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood, contradicted her boss by admitting that Brexit is not to blame for the Channel migrants crisis.

Labour MPs, from all wings of the party, are increasingly voicing privately that Sir Keir's demise is now terminal.

Whether he staggers on to the May elections, in which Labour face being trounced, remains to be seen.

What is clear is that Sir Keir's authority is shot. He no longer speaks for the Labour Party.

Let alone the country.

DX1ST

JOHN VIRGO:

SNOOKER'S SHOWMAN

Friends and family pay heartfelt tributes to a shining star of the game, on and off the table

By **Hannah Britt**

JOHN Virgo was a natural entertainer loved by millions of snooker fans for his droll commentary and hilarious impressions – and he was a pretty handy player too.

Dubbed Mr Perfection, John, who died suddenly yesterday aged 79, excelled both on and off the table.

On it, the highlight was his win in the 1979 UK Championship, where he prevailed 14-13 over Terry Griffiths despite arriving late for the final session and being docked two frames.

And he would have fans in stitches during breaks in play at the World Championships with his impersonations of other stars on the circuit, such as Ray Reardon and Alex Higgins.

It was no surprise that he became a hit on Big Break, the BBC's snooker-themed quiz which was a Saturday night staple from 1991 to 2002.

After retiring in 1994, he moved seamlessly into the commentary box and could often be heard asking: "Where's the white ball going?"

At home with Rosie; *left*, John as a boy

Speaking just hours after his death from the home they shared in Mijas Costa, Spain, John's widow, Rosie Ries, said: "We were days shy of our 16-year wedding anniversary. I can't imagine life without John, he was the love of my life and my best friend."

John's close friend James Malyon added: "I'm all over the place, it's obviously a bit of a shock. He died from a ruptured aorta completely out of the blue. He was in good health before that."

Former world champion Ken Doherty, 56, who commentated alongside John for the BBC, said: "He was like a godfather to me. He had a knack of dramatising the game, and he would have me in stitches. It didn't get any better than that in the commentary box.

"'It's theatre,' he would say. "And he was right."

John's life was as colourful as his trademark waistcoats.

Growing up in Salford, he stepped into a snooker club off the Trafford Road for the first time when he was just 12.

Snooker won his heart despite his dad banning him from the club, concerned about his presence in a venue of questionable repute.

John said: "My father said it was a rat pen, a den of iniquity. I didn't even know those words."

He won the National Under-16 Championship in 1962 and the National Under-19 Championship in 1965 while he was still working as a wages clerk.

John represented England in the amateur championships 15 times and entered the Guinness Book of Records as the first amateur player to make a 147 break, before he turned pro in 1976.

As well as that UK Championship win, he reached the semi-final of the World Championship in 1979, losing to Dennis Taylor, and the same stage of the British Open in 1986. Dennis, 77, said: "I've known John for over 50 years. When I moved to Blackburn I was 17 and John was 19 and in Salford, not many miles away. We grew up together in the snooker world.

John in the commentary box at The Crucible and, right, enjoying the moment after his 1979 UK Championship win

"When he won the UK Championship in 1979 the BBC was on strike and never got to show it. How unlucky was that?

"John did amazing impersonations. He knew how to make people laugh. He knew how to do me – he just had to get the biggest pair of glasses he could find and stick them on.

"People will remember John for being one of the game's great characters. It's a sad old day for the game. And I've lost a dear friend of 50 years."

John had just been on tour with Dennis and Steve Davis, replaying their famous 1985 World Championship final with John on commentary. Steve, 68, said: "We're all a bit upset. He had such a warm heart. One personal memory was when I lost to Dennis Taylor in the final of 1985 – it was one of the most exciting moments in the game's history.

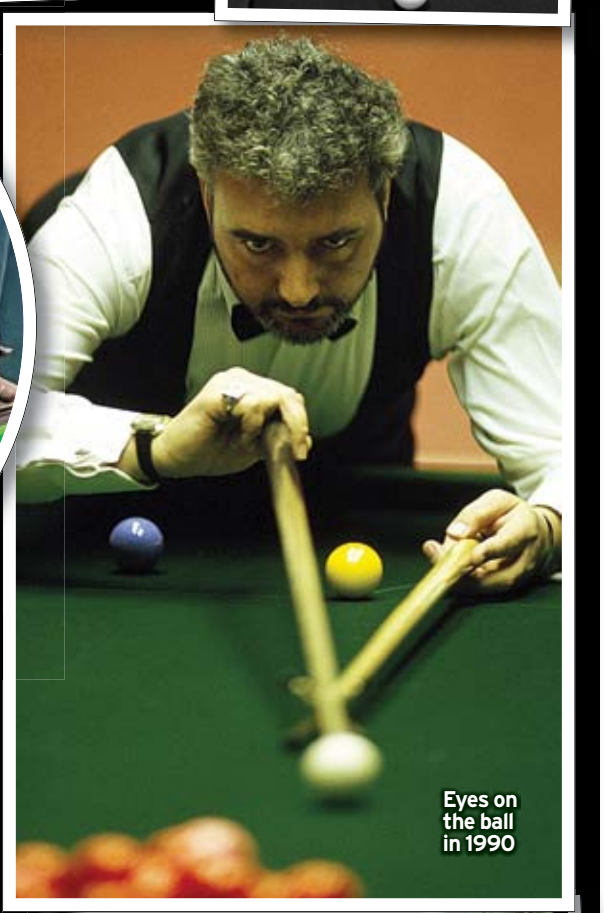
"When I went back to the dressing room, I was in floods of tears.

"And the one person who knocked on the door and came in was John.

"Not that he wanted me to win or lose, but he knew what it meant.

With Big Break co-host Jim Davidson and, *left*, Stephen Hendry

John, left, with Dennis Taylor and Steve Davis on tour last week



Eyes on the ball in 1990

His own waistcoat line and, above, with Willie Thorne in 1983

He was moved by what had happened.

"It's a sad, sad day for snooker. One of our most loved friends has passed and our hearts are broken."

John's friend Michael Hall McPherson said: "There was no facade to him. He was John Virgo all the time, with bundles of humility. He was also a wonderful husband, caring and kind. I'll treasure our memories together.

"'Life goes quickly,' he told me last Thursday. Those words are so poignant now."

Big Break turned John into a household name and he even brought out his own line of waistcoats.

He landed panto roles, book deals and even launched his own trick shot app.

Comedian and Big Break co-host Jim Davidson said he was "heartbroken," adding: "What a character, what a talent."

Jason Ferguson, chairman of the World Governing Body of Snooker added: "Who can forget him on Big Break? It's one of my greatest memories of him – hosting that show, doing trick shots.

"I started my life as a young snooker player and I remember him putting on his fake hair and big glasses and entertaining everyone.

"He was funny back then, and he was funny right up until he died. It's a very sad day for snooker. A great man. He will be missed by all that knew him."

Snooker MC and commentator Rob Walker spent time with John, who had commented on the Masters Live for the BBC 17 days before his death, two weeks ago.

He said:"He was still at the very peak of his powers. I'm really shocked. It's the end of an era, that's for sure."

John married three times and had two children, Gary and Brook-Leah.

OPINION: PAGE 12

‘Do not sell out British farmers with EU reset deal,’ warn MPs

SIR Keir Starmer’s Brexit reset may betray British farmers by allowing low-cost imports from countries where animal welfare standards are lower, MPs say.

They insist the government must ensure meat from badly treated livestock is banned or clearly labelled if it is to be sold here.

The Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee said: “This could include products from livestock that has been force fed.” It also called for a Swiss-style “carve out” to any agreement with the EU to safeguard higher British standards.

MPs investigated a deal on the health and safety

BY **JONATHAN WALKER**

standards of traded food, animals and plants that Sir Keir hopes to sign with the EU. The government says this SPS agreement will “save businesses time and money” by reducing restrictions and ending most routine border checks between the UK and EU.

MPs welcomed the deal in principle, but pointed out that a new UK animal welfare strategy will make the rules for our farmers even stricter. Chair Alistair Carmichael said: “We must avoid unnecessary burdens and undercutting of farmers from products produced abroad where animals are treated worse.”

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Rescued Channel migrants regularly demand to know which hotel they’ll stay at, Home Secretary revealed

Mahmood: ‘Brexit not to blame for boats’

Claim 22k crossings stopped

HOME Secretary Shabana Mahmood piled more misery on Keir Starmer as she sensationally contradicted him in admitting Brexit is not to blame for the Channel migrant crisis.

In October, Sir Keir labelled the dinghies “Farage boats” and praised an EU-wide returns scheme.

But Ms Mahmood dismissed claims that the historic vote to quit the bloc was “responsible for the boats”, adding that Brussels had replaced the Dublin Agreement hailed by Sir Keir.

She also admitted the PM’s one-in-one-out deal with France was not deterring migrants.

Ms Mahmood told the Home Affairs Select Committee: “I would just dispute whether Dublin actually worked as was intended.

“The EU have now created a new pact because their own arrangements were not working as intended.

“I’m sure there’s lots of other debate to be had about the rights and wrongs of Brexit, but Brexit responsible for the boats? I don’t think that’s true.”

Last October, the PM sought to blame Brexit for the Channel chaos.

He said: “These are Farage boats, in many senses, that are coming across the Channel. I would gently point out to [Reform leader] Nigel Farage and others that before we left the EU, we had a returns agreement with every country in the EU and he told the country it would make no difference if we left. He was wrong about that.”

Ms Mahmood went on to claim steps the government has taken had “stopped something like 22,000

BY **MICHAEL KNOWLES**
Home Affairs Editor

[Channel] crossings”. However, she refused to promise numbers would go down in 2026. Some 41,472 people crossed the Channel last year, up from 36,566 in 2024.

She told MPs: “I would love to be in that position. I can’t guarantee I’m going to be in that position.

“That’s because the measures will take some time to come into effect.

“There’s a whole range of legislative changes we announced, which we are working at pace to draft and get right before we pass them in a bill – that all necessarily does take some time.”

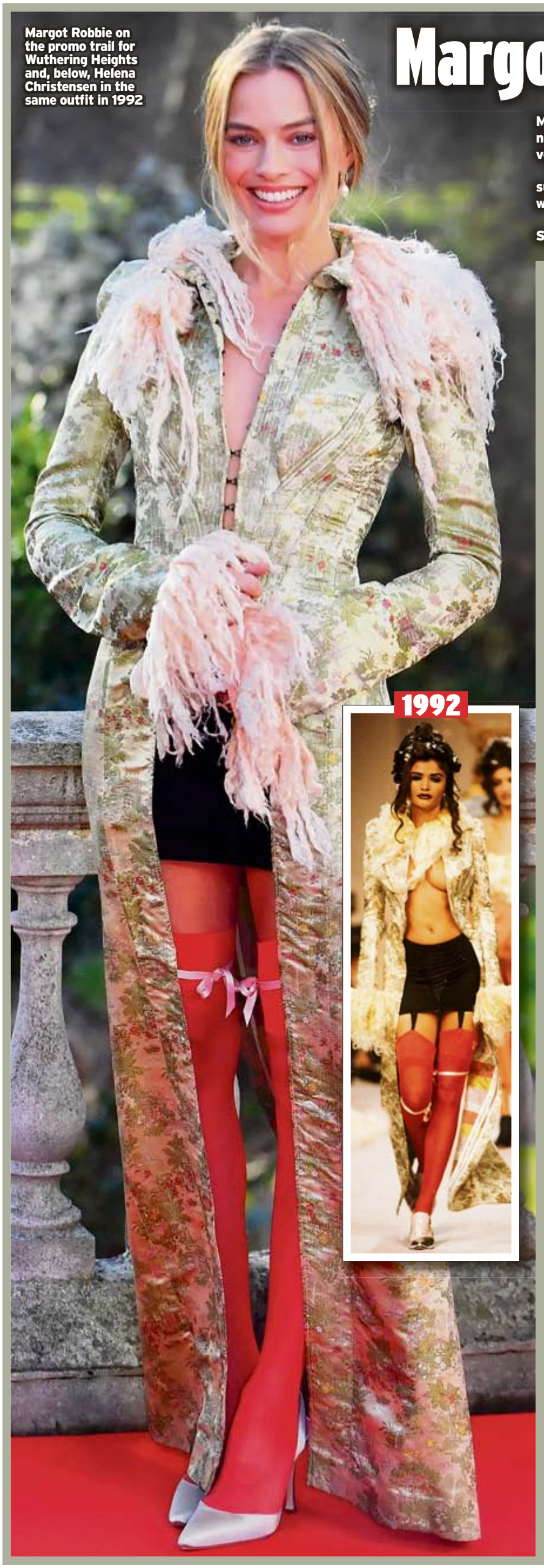
Mahmood said France deal not yet effective

She also revealed asylum seekers are “highly knowledgeable” about what is available to them in the UK, to the extent they regularly ask “which hotel they are going to be in” after crossing.

Ms Mahmood added: “These people know what we’re up to, with a high degree of knowledge, cohorts we deal with on the organised crime side of things and also the individuals getting on boats.

“I imagine these individuals will know it is a pilot that will start small and it is trying to prove a concept. So, has it yet changed their personal calculus? Probably not. They may well be banking on it not working.”

The UK is among countries pushing for changes in the way the Human Rights Act is interpreted, notably Article 3 – protection against inhuman or degrading treatment – and Article 8’s right to a family life.



Margot Robbie on the promo trail for Wuthering Heights and, below, Helena Christensen in the same outfit in 1992

Margot's a blast from the past

MARGOT Robbie poses in a historical outfit – but not quite as old as the ones she wears in the new version of Wuthering Heights.

Her John Galliano frock coat, red stockings and suspenders date back to 1992, when they were worn on the catwalk by Helena Christensen.

Australian actress Margot, 35, who posed at Spencer House, in Central London yesterday, stars in the new adaptation of Emily Bronte's 1847 novel. Set on the Yorkshire Moors, it chronicles the romance between tragic heroine Cathy and Heathcliff, played by fellow Aussie Jacob Elordi, 28.

The film, which has been adapted and directed by former Call the Midwife star Emerald Fennell, 40, is in cinemas from February 13.

Traitors' Roxy: I was rejected by my foster parents

Mum Judy came to 4-year-old's rescue

BY **LAUREN MORRIS**

Judy and Roxy now and, inset below, when Roxy was young

THE Traitors' Roxy Wilson has revealed how she felt rejected by her foster carers at the age of four.

The 32-year-old appeared on the hit BBC reality show with her mum Judy, who adopted her, although the other contestants were kept in the dark about their connection.

Speaking on Good Morning Britain yesterday the pair recalled how Roxy had visited Judy – who was planning to adopt her – as part of a trial to see if the match would work out.

But when Roxy fell ill with the flu, her foster parents said they didn't want her back. Roxy told the ITV show: "I was about four. I had to come from Bristol to Doncaster for the visit.

"Then I was a bit unwell and my mum [Judy] had made me a packed lunch for the train. It was all set for me to go back with my social worker to my Bristol foster carer. I remember the call and the foster carer saying, 'Well, don't bring her back then'. That was quite nuts."

Judy added: "She got flu and they basically said, 'Well, there's no point bringing her back.'"

When asked if the snub had affected her psychologically, Roxy replied: "It sounds strange to say as an adult, but it was normal. I was used to it. I was passed around so much. It wasn't out of the ordinary to not go back somewhere at some point.

"But Mum snapped into action… It went from being, 'I'm not going back', to, 'I'm here, I'm staying'." It turned out to be a blessing for both Roxy and child liaison officer Judy, who already had three sons and was thrilled to have a new daughter.

She told the ITV1 show: "I fell in love with her. The boys did as well. It was incredible. The best thing I ever did."

Roxy then went on to speak about her other foster parents.

When asked whether some of them cared more about the money than caring for abandoned children, Roxy, who is expecting a baby girl this summer, said: "I think there's an element of that for sure. There was one foster placement in particular that had quite a lot of us children and none of us were cared for correctly but they were getting allocated money to look after us correctly so there's a bit of a disparity there."

The pair are campaigning for more people to become foster carers.

Support

Judy said of working in foster care: "It's the most rewarding thing ever.

"I'm just a normal person, I'm just Judy – so you need to reach out to us.

"We can give you support, we're there to hold your hand and make sure these kids get the care they deserve."

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Scandal could herald the end of Starmer regime

SIR Keir Starmer's career as Prime Minister is dangling by a thread as a result of the Peter Mandelson scandal – and he has no one to blame but himself.

His admission that the security vetting included details of "Mandelson's ongoing relationship with the paedophile Jeffrey Epstein" is shocking. It is incredible the Labour leader knew these facts and appointed him Britain's ambassador to the United States.

This is a catastrophic error of judgment and Labour MPs believe he is finished.

As one said: "He knew. It is absolutely disgusting. He should be ashamed of himself. It is morally reprehensible."

Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch accused him of a "cover-up".

And now the government is expected to publish the details of how the New Labour veteran was given the top diplomatic post.

Sir Keir's lack of judgment and scrambled moral compass has been demonstrated in repeated fiascoes, including the scrapping of pensioners' universal entitlement to winter fuel support, the giveaway of the Chagos Islands and the tax raid on farmers. This latest case is particularly troubling.

Did the Prime Minister fail to appreciate the heinous nature of Epstein's crimes?

Was he manipulated into appointing a man who had been twice ejected from Parliament?

Does he feel so out of his depth leading the country that he wanted this veteran of the Tony Blair and Gordon Brown administrations on his team?

The victims of Epstein cannot have been at the forefront of his thoughts when he made Mandelson Our Man in DC.

The awful fusion of carelessness and callousness which has defined the Starmer government has come back to bite the PM.

His own MPs will be weighing when and how to tell him it is time to go.

Cancer care victory is a true landmark moment

OUR campaign to turbo-charge care given to people with cancer has scored a major victory with the government committing to give every patient a personalised plan.

We congratulate our reporter Robert Fisk who has campaigned with courage, eloquence and power on this issue.

During his own treatment for stage four bowel cancer, he witnessed how diagnoses can plunge people into a deep personal crisis, and too often their needs go unmentioned.

Thanks must go to Health Secretary Wes Streeting for listening to Robert and his fellow campaigners and acting on their call for change. This nation must not fail people in one of the most daunting chapters of their lives.

John was one of a kind

THE great John Virgo brought the thrills of snooker to millions of Britons over nearly five decades, as a professional player and then in his years as a commentator.

The warmth of the many tributes demonstrates the fondness in which he was held by peers. He will be truly missed.

Mandelson damage now sits squarely with misfiring PM

Under fire Keir Starmer defends his decisions in the House of Commons yesterday

Esther Krakue
Daily Express Columnist

WATCHING Prime Minister's Questions yesterday, you could almost see Keir Starmer wishing the ground would open up beneath him. Every PM has uncomfortable days, but this one felt different. The discomfort wasn't just political theatre. It was the look of a man forced to answer for a mess very much of his own making.

Because however serious the allegations now swirling around Peter Mandelson about his past relationship with Jeffrey Epstein, the question in the Commons chamber was simple: Why on earth did Starmer bring Mandelson back in the first place? Kemi Badenoch didn't need to overplay it. She simply threw Starmer's own words back at him. Mandelson, the PM now says, "betrayed party and country" by allegedly passing sensitive information during the financial crisis.

Yet this was the same Mandelson Starmer appointed as ambassador to Washington, one of the most sensitive diplomatic postings Britain has to offer. Watching the PM try to square that circle was painful. It felt like seeing someone swing repeatedly at a target that kept turning out to be a reflection.

Starmer's defence was that he did not know the full extent of Mandelson's ties to Epstein. But that simply doesn't hold up. The association was already public knowledge, with reports circulating that Mandelson had stayed at Epstein's properties after his conviction.

JOURNALISTS had raised concerns well before the appointment. And, as Badenoch reminded the PM, Sir Keir was celebrating Mandelson's return before vetting had even finished. At some point, no matter how serious the potential criminal implications, this stops being about Mandelson and becomes a question of Starmer's judgment. Mandelson's record hardly required investigative digging to raise alarm bells either. Long before Epstein entered the picture, his career was already littered with controversy. He resigned from government in 1998 over an undisclosed loan from fellow minister Geoffrey Robinson used to buy a house.

Then two years later, he was forced out again after intervening in the British passport application of an Indian billionaire whose company had donated to Labour.

Most politicians are grateful if they survive one scandal. Mandelson managed two departures in disgrace and still kept being wheeled back whenever Labour's leadership ran short of operators who could get things done. Clearly, Labour is so bereft of talent that they felt the need to resurrect the carcass of Mandelson's political career – dragging back a figure whose record should have ruled out a return long ago. The latest allegations only deepen the sense that this appointment was reckless from the start.

Emails now under scrutiny appear to show Mandelson sharing market-sensitive information during the financial crisis with Epstein, including discussions around bailout decisions and banking policy.

There are also claims he lobbied internally on issues affecting bankers' bonuses while Epstein and associates pressed from the outside.

The case is now with the police. And if proven true, it would mean a staggering breach of trust at a time when governments were desperately trying to keep markets and public confidence from falling apart.

But again, none of this was a secret. Mandelson's attraction to wealthy benefactors and his habit of drifting too close to power and money were already part of his reputation. How else did he earn the nickname the Prince of Darkness? It was all there in plain sight.

And his appointment fits a wider pattern. Starmer's leadership has already made questionable personnel calls, most notably the chaotic Sue Gray episode.

THEN there are Labour ministers' infamous rows over gifts and freebies while lecturing everyone else about standards in public life. And who can forget Angela Rayner – the former deputy PM who could hardly pass up an opportunity to sully the news cycle with her expletive-laden outbursts about bloodsucking, elitist Tories, only to find herself embroiled in controversy over her own property tax affairs.

That is why this week's PMQs felt so revealing. The PM was not really being asked to defend Mandelson. He was being asked to defend his own judgment.

The damage now sits squarely with the PM, who decided bringing him back was a good idea. And watching Starmer squirm under questioning, you couldn't help thinking that, this time, his opponents barely needed to land a blow. He had already done the job himself.

'Journalists raised concerns well before the appointment'

VIRGINIA BLACKBURN

"Silent gratitude isn't very much to anyone."
Gertrude Stein

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Nice and sleazy does it for Labour leaders

WELL, well Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor must be feeling at least a tiny bit pleased. Fresh from the emergence of photographs of him looking glassy-eyed and frankly deranged, kneeling over the corpse, sorry, body, of some unfortunate young female, it now appears Peter Mandelson might have not only taken money from Jeffrey Epstein but also passed on confidential, market-moving info. Whoda thunk it?

Well, quite a few people, actually. Warnings were everywhere. Peter Mandelson was forced to resign from Tony Blair's government in 1998 after it was disclosed he'd taken a private loan of nearly £400,000 from Geoffrey Robinson, something he'd forgotten to mention to anyone, including his mortgage company.

Despite that, Blair reinstalled him as Northern Ireland Secretary about five minutes later (OK, 10 months.) He was forced to resign again in 2001 after becoming embroiled in a scandal about trying to obtain a passport for Srichand Hinduja, though he was cleared of wrongdoing.

There followed years of dodgy friendships and although Gordon Brown is now roaring with rage about his conduct, it was the then PM – in the full knowledge of the above – who elevated him to the Lords and appointed him Business Secretary, thus putting him in a position to allegedly leak confidential info to Epstein. Keir Starmer is also shrieking from the rooftops about this but it was he who, in the teeth of opposition from anyone with a brain, appointed him Ambassador to the US. Well done, Keir.

I could fill the rest of this newspaper detailing the list of characters to whom Mandy acted as an adviser (something he has in common with Blair): suffice it to say they include a few Russian oligarchs and an Indonesian company accused of illegal logging, endangering the habitat of rare animals, including the Sumatran tiger.

Elsewhere, it has been suggested that Epstein gave Mandelson's partner Reinaldo Avila da Silva (the Fergie in this part of the saga) £10,000 ostensibly to train as an osteopath but now, it is being suggested, as yet another hold over the man himself. Now Mandelson says Epstein was like "dog muck you can't get off your shoe": it doesn't look as if he was trying very hard though.

Among the many queuing up to denounce him from within Labour are members of the hard left: they have always hated him as part of the Blairite project. They, of course, favoured the likes of communist Jeremy Corbyn, who would have ruined GB even faster than this lot are doing.

This bunch of charmers are fighting like rats in a sack. Mandelson is clearly intelligent but his moral compass is influenced by those he spent so long mixing with. Three Labour PMs all knew this yet promoted him anyway. And they talk about Tory sleaze.

IN OTHER news on the political front, ex-anti-corruption minister Tulip Siddiq has been sentenced to another four years by a Bangladeshi court. And they wonder why the public has lost faith with the political class?

No need to undress to impress, Margot

MARGOT Robbie has appeared in a rather classy Chanel gown at the premiere of Wuthering Heights: she then ruined the effect by putting on a black microdress afterwards.

This follows in a long line of shockers: on the promo trail she's been either in see-through clothing (trashy) or micro mini skirts (also trashy). For why? Margot, you do not need to do this. You are already a huge star.

Feisty Fox's successful trans action

MANY congratulations to Fox Varian, who has won $2million dollars in a New York court after doctors cut off her breasts when she was a teenager to let her live as a man. Let us hope that this opens the floodgates.

There's nothing like the threat of a multi-million lawsuit to bring the people enabling the trans nonsense to their senses.

Let us also hope the people preparing to subject children as young as eight in this country to life changing medication take careful note.

ONE OF the most cheering news items of the last week was that JK Rowling paid £47.5million in tax last year. Cheering not because I would want anyone at all to pay such a huge amount to this pathetic, incompetent government, but because it means that, despite the best attempts of her enemies in the trans lobby, she's clearly earning as much as ever. And long may it continue!

Sobering fact for population

THERE'S been a great deal of hoo-ha about the fact that the young of today are drinking far less than the older generation but I very much doubt it has anything to do with Gen Z going on the wagon.

Isn't the far more likely explanation that we have seen a vast influx over the last 30 years of people whose home culture bans alcohol?

SHARON Osbourne has been invited by the Conservatives to stand as councillor in Birmingham's local elections against Shahid Butt, a convicted terrorist. You go for it, girl. If the country was run by a few of the likes of Sharon Osbourne, the current mess would be cleared up in no time.

ANT'S A CELEBRITY... AND WIFE ANNE-MARIE GOT HIM OUT OF THERE!

ANT McPARTLIN has sold his home in Wimbledon and moved to a £10million estate in Surrey: congrats to him and his wife Anne-Marie Corbett and their young son.

Ant had had a row about planning permission with his previous neighbours, although he said the move has nothing to do with that. I believe him.

I suspect it has a bit more to do with his wife, who might have felt a bit of space from Dec would be a good thing.

Ant and Dec were so close they not only holidayed together but they even used to live on the same street. Morecambe and Wise clearly loved each other as brothers, but they never did that. Ant and Dec are now both married fathers and their priorities must lie elsewhere.

Wise Anne-Marie.

DAILY EXPRESSO SEE HOST JJ ANISIOBI AND GUESTS IN NEW EPISODES MONDAY TO FRIDAY ON THE EXPRESS YOUTUBE CHANNEL

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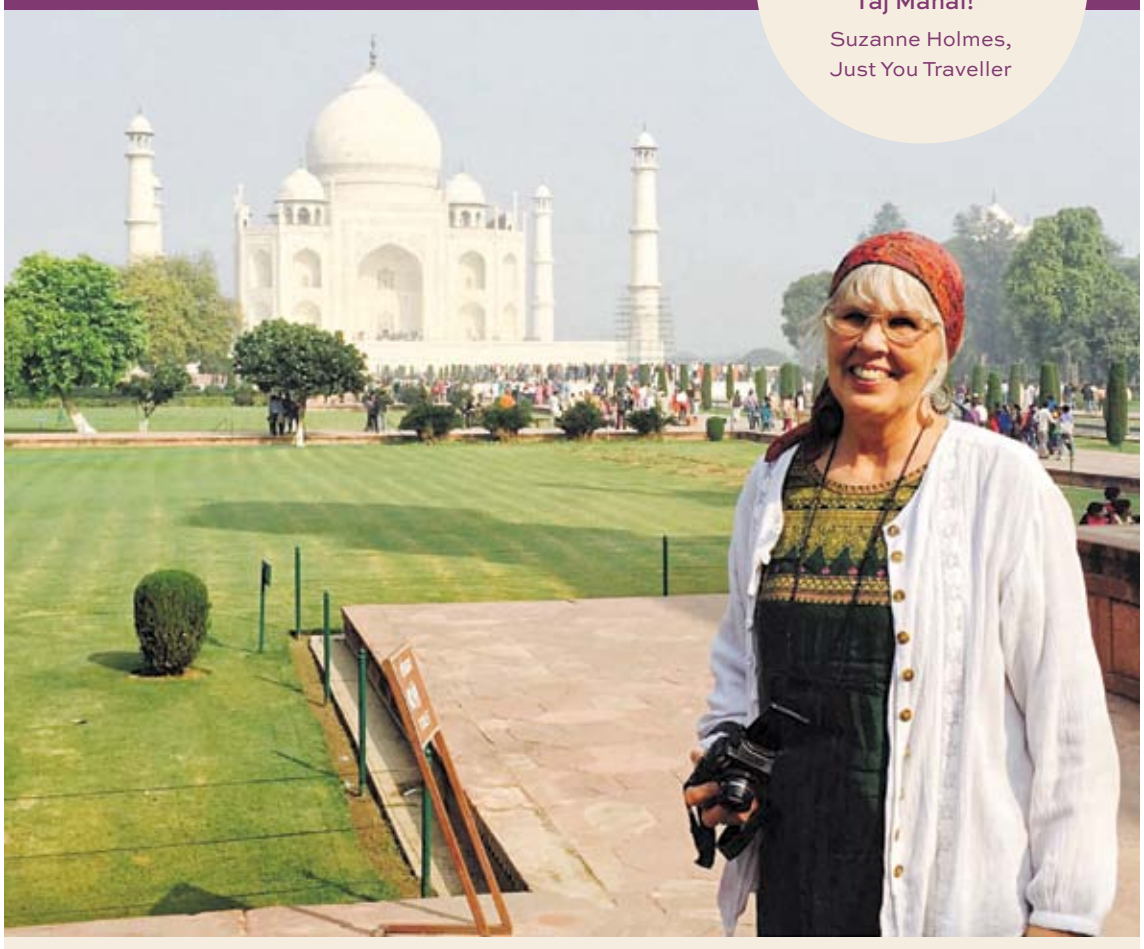

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ON THE MONEY

by **Katie Elliott**

Any questions? Please email me at katie.elliott@reachplc.com

DO YOU know where your partner's will is? Apparently, nearly half of couples do not. This isn't a small oversight. Unlike everyday things like shed keys or boiler manuals, not knowing where the will is kept could end up costing you.

New research from Canada Life sheds light on just how widespread the problem is. While 47% admitted to not knowing where their partner's will is, a further 66% are unsure where their parents' wills are stored.

When it comes to siblings, the number leaps to 87%.

The same confusion extends to pensions – a potential treasure chest of family wealth. Private pensions now make up the UK's second-largest household asset after property, according to the Office for National Statistics. Yet 37% of people have no idea where their partner's pension documents are, and nearly six in 10 wouldn't know where their parents are kept. And with pensions set to be dragged into the inheritance tax net from 2027, the stakes for being organised are higher than ever.

Good grief, get more organised

The problem isn't just wills and pensions. Around four in 10 can't locate their partner's life insurance or debt arrangements, and barely two in five know where their parents' key financial policies live. This administrative black hole could slow down probate, delay payouts, and even trigger penalties if tax deadlines are missed.

Liz Hardie, a tax and estate planning specialist at Canada Life, warned that the consequences of not knowing "can be serious". She added that previous research from the firm showed the most common problem encountered by executors of a will is tracking down policy documents.

So this week's key money tip is to get organised. Gather key policies, wills, pensions and loan agreements, jot down where they're kept, and share that list securely with a trusted relative or adviser. It will save your loved ones a headache or a potentially higher tax bill.

DEAL OF THE WEEK

CO-OP unveiled its Valentine's Day "Dine in Deal" for two this week, working out at £5 per head. The offer includes a premium main course, two sides and a bottle of fizz or soft drink priced at £10 for Co-op members or £12 for non-members. Mains include a British Angus rump steak and chicken and mushroom pie, or an aubergine parmigiana for the veggies. Available in store and online until Tuesday, February 17.

A NEW smart meter rule change means you can get £40 compensation if an installation is delayed or fails from this month.

Under new Ofgem rules, energy suppliers must automatically pay £40 if you wait more than six weeks for a smart meter appointment, an installation appointment fails due to a fault within the supplier's control, or if the supplier does not provide a resolution plan within five working days of a reported issue.

The energy regulator said the new rules are designed to "set clear expectations of suppliers, drive better performance, and protect consumers when things go wrong."

More than 70% of homes in Britain have a smart or advanced meter, according to the latest government figures, and more than 90% work correctly.

But with horror stories cropping up about rare instances when smart meters go wrong, adding hundreds or even thousands to energy bills, you may be questioning the accuracy of your own.

If you already have a smart meter and want to check it's working properly, check your bill. An "S" next to the meter reading means it came directly from your meter. An "E" means the reading was estimated, which could indicate your meter isn't operating in smart mode. Experts at Smart Energy GB, a government-backed organisation tasked with informing energy customers about smart meters, say even if this happens, your meter should record energy use accurately. It said in many cases, the issue is a temporary problem that can be fixed remotely.

If you think your meter isn't working properly, check the supplier's troubleshooting advice. If this doesn't resolve it, contact your energy supplier. If you believe your supplier hasn't met its obligations for fixing it, raise a complaint.

If you're still not satisfied, escalate the issue to the Energy Ombudsman on 0330 440 1624.

Estate agent Suzy Lamplugh went missing in 1986. Above, Diane and monster Wright on their wedding day in August 1987

‘Ask my ex about Suzy Lamplugh...’

Suffolk Strangler’s former wife calls for police probe

BY **LUCY THORNTON, SASKIA ROWLANDS** and **DAN WARBURTON**

SUFFOLK Strangler Steve Wright’s ex-wife says he should be questioned about the disappearance of former QE2 crewmate Suzy Lamplugh.

Diane Cole, 71, fears Wright was a modern-day Jack the Ripper and could have targeted Suzy, who he used to flirt with aboard the liner.

The estate agent 25, went missing after leaving her office in Fulham, West London, to meet a client known as “Mr Kipper” on July 28, 1986.

Diane said: “He needs to tell the families and give them closure if he’s responsible. Maybe he realises he’s not getting out and might start confessing more.

“He should tell the truth for the sake of Suzy’s family. And for anybody else he’s done in. It’s cruel. I definitely do think the police really need to look at him again. I know how bad he could be.”

Serial killer Wright surprisingly admitted the 1999 murder of student Victoria Hall, 17, when he appeared for trial at the Old Bailey on Monday.

Diane, who also worked on the liner, says she has since been haunted by one particular memory from the weeks after she and Suzy disembarked.

She remembered: “[Wright] was supposed to be on the ship but he arrived loaded down with Christian Dior makeup at our bungalow.

Wright’s mugshot and more recently

“Steve didn’t come off the QE2 until October 25. But he did turn up out of the blue in Halstead, Essex, that summer. It was in the height of summer when Suzy went missing. He said he was in a rush to get back.

“How did he get all that makeup? How did he get there, he didn’t have a car then. I’m very confused about it now, because Suzy was a beautician. She’d come off the ship at the same time as me, and he was a few months later. I think that’s why I was suspicious. It is weird that Suzy knew him.”

The monster is serving a whole life jail sentence for murdering five women in and around Ipswich in 2006. He will be sentenced for Victoria’s murder tomorrow.

Murderer John Cannan, who died aged 70 last year in HMP Full Sutton, East Yorks, was the prime suspect in Suzy’s disappearance but the CPS said there was insufficient evidence to charge him.

Diane recalled working with Suzy and said Wright, her boyfriend at the time, was a steward who knew them both.

She said: “They came to my attention when I stuck my head out of the cabin and I saw them talking. He was having a lovely time. I don’t think she was interested in him but he was her. She was very pretty, very nice. She was popular with most people, especially the men. But he never mentioned her to me at all. He was a man of mystery. He’s like Jack the Ripper.”

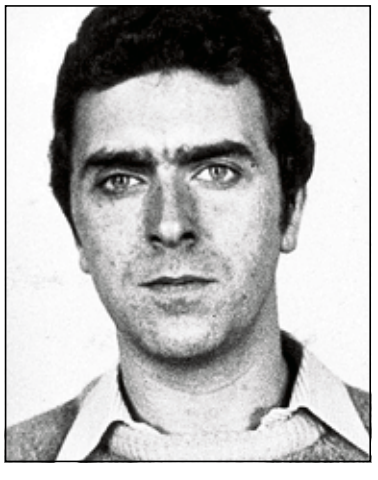
She also recalls Wright’s violent outbursts on the ship, and on one occasion using her lipstick to scrawl “wh*re” and “sl*t” on her cabin door.

Terry Cassidy, now 72, from Liverpool, who worked in the QE2’s laundry, remembers the incident. He said: “It was all round the ship, everyone was talking about it. There was all hell made over it. All she’d done was go out, the ship was in port.

“[Wright] was a ladies’ man, he definitely knew Suzy because she was a beautician and his girlfriend was a shop girl, and the shop girls and hairdressers were in the same alleyway.

“He was very strange and abrupt. he thought he was above everyone else, and didn’t really socialise.”

Still from a television reconstruction of how Suzy disappeared and, right, Met Police prime suspect John Cannan



About Suzy’s links with Wright, he says: “It’s very, very strange. Well, he’s just admitted to one so maybe he might own up to it now.

“The police should look at him again, he could have had the day off and phoned her and made up the ‘kipper’ thing. He’s clever that way. He got away with murder for years.”

A fellow steward, Paul Stamp, said: “I worked in the same restaurant as him. To me he had a cold look in his eyes and demeanour. I don’t think he had any friends on there.”

He added: “I did once remark to some shipmates that one day he would end up as front page news.”

Suzy’s brother Richard Lamplugh, 65, said: “I don’t know who killed Suzy. As far as I’m concerned, it does look like everything points to John Cannan and that’s what the police have said.

Disappearance

“But it wouldn’t hurt to question Wright or to investigate him. Would he remember what he did with the body after so long? It’s very strange that he worked with Suzy on the QE2.”

The Metropolitan Police said in a statement: “The investigation into the disappearance and murder of Suzy Lamplugh is ongoing, and detectives remain committed to securing justice for her family.”

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Police at scene of stabbing

Uni stabbing death: Man, 18, is held in murder hunt

BY **RICHARD ASHMORE**

A MAN of 18 was being held on suspicion of murder last night after a student died following a stabbing at a university.

Passers-by and medics attempted to save the victim – said to be in his early 20s – but he died in hospital.

Forensics specialists in Leicester yesterday retrieved a knife from a hedge between a De Montfort University building and nearby student halls.

Police sealed off city centre roads as part of their investigation.

Officers revealed there was a row between two men on Oxford Street at 5pm on Tuesday.

DI Lorna Granville added: "One of the men is believed to have been stabbed and has then collapsed in the street.

"CCTV in the area is currently being reviewed and officers are speaking to potential witnesses. A lot of people came to the aid of the victim before emergency services.

Family

"We want to thank them for their help.

"If you were one of these people and you haven't yet spoken to police, please make contact with us."

The university's vice-chancellor Prof Katie Normington said: "We are devastated to confirm the tragic death of one of our students.

"Our thoughts are with everyone who is affected by what has happened. We are offering direct support to students, staff and the family of the victim."

Software engineer Tye Crofton, 19, heard a scream just before he finished work.

He said: "I saw a man lying on the ground covered with coats."

He said a member of the public performed CPR on the victim.

Biomedical science student Meghan, 22, from London, lives in halls just yards away from the scene. She said yesterday: "I don't feel safe to be honest."

'Victory for women in Britain and a warning to other nations'

Trans-row nurse stuns US lawmakers

Bethany Hutchison in Washington, left, and with Tom Allen, Mary Miller and Andrea Williams

BY **GILES SHELDRICK**
Chief Reporter

AN NHS nurse has told how defeating radical trans ideology that was being ignored by Labour was a victory for women and girls across Britain – and a stark warning to other countries.

Speaking at an international summit in Washington DC, Bethany Hutchison said she was forced to take legal action to expose the simple truth that men and women are different.

She went to court after a male nurse who identified as a woman was allowed to use female changing rooms by County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust.

Mrs Hutchison, 36, was invited to speak at the influential She Leads the Nations Global Summit on Capitol Hill after US lawmakers read her extraordinary battle in the Express.

She said: "I never expected to be speaking publicly about something so basic yet now so controversial.

"I work for the National Health Service – Britain's government-run healthcare system, trusted by millions, and responsible for nearly all hospital care in the UK.

"And yet it was inside this institution that my colleagues and I experienced something deeply disturbing."

The mum-of-two told delegates: "Without warning or consultation, a biological male colleague who identified as a woman was granted access to the female changing room, the private space where women undress and prepare for work. A national policy required this. Any man who 'identifies' as a woman must be allowed into women's spaces.

"We raised concerns quietly. We expected discussion. But nothing happened."

'We never went looking for conflict. It came to us in a changing room'

The US audience of leading Republicans – including Maria Elvira Salazar, who serves on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and is a confidante of Donald Trump; Illinois congresswoman Mary Miller; and Christian anti-abortion activist Brandi Swindell – sat in stunned silence. They were told how Mrs Hutchison and six colleagues on a day-care ward at Darlington Memorial Hospital were forced to take their employer to a tribunal. The case awoke Britain to the dangerous dogma being peddled across the public sector, which employs more than six million people.

The employment tribunal ruled a policy of allowing biological men into women's spaces was unlawful and violated the rights of the nurses. It prompted an outpouring of support from all sections of society, led by Harry Potter author and women's rights activist JK Rowling. The nurses' watershed moment came after the Supreme Court issued a judgment last April, saying a person's legal sex is the one they are biologically assigned at birth.

Six of the seven nurses – including Mrs Hutchison, third from right – after winning the tribunal against their NHS bosses

However, the fight for women's rights continues as the UK government has yet to bring an updated code of practice drawn up by the Equality and Human Rights Commission to Parliament – despite being in receipt of it since September 2025.

Ministers claimed it was a "300-page long and legally complex document and it is important for service providers that we get this right".

Mrs Hutchison, who flew to the US with Andrea Williams, CEO of the UK's Christian Legal Centre, and Tom Allen, its PR officer, said: "We never went looking for conflict. It came to us in a women's changing room.

"Our unions refused to defend us. One union leader publicly called us bigots. So we formed our own union – simply to defend women's dignity and safety. And we won.

"The tribunal ruled that forcing women to share a changing room with a male colleague was unlawful harassment and a violation of our dignity.

"This was not just a victory for us. It was a victory for women and girls across Britain – and a warning to other nations. When institutions abandon truth in the name of ideology, women pay the price first. But when women stand together with courage and conviction, cultures can change."

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Camp leader drugged wife while he abused children

BY **SOPHIE ROBINSON**

A FORMER vet who sexually assaulted children at a summer camp after spiking their sweets drugged his wife so she would not wake while he abused them.

Jon Ruben had previously admitted attacking two boys, and child cruelty towards six others in his care.

At his plea hearing yesterday, the 76-year-old pleaded guilty to administering a poison or noxious substance, Temazepam, to Susan Ruben between July 26 and 29 last year.

Ruben, who ran the camp at Stathern Lodge in Leicestershire, said "I'm so sorry" after entering his plea.

Stathern Lodge in Leics; right, Jon Ruben

Slurred

He is due to be sentenced tomorrow. Judge Timothy Spencer KC told Ruben it will be a "very tough day in your life".

Prosecutor Mary Prior KC told Leicester crown court that the defendant asked police for a voluntary interview during which he admitted drugging his wife.

Ruben was arrested last July after eight children were taken to hospital.

Anti-anxiety drug Xanax was found to have been used on some of them. Several youngsters became ill after playing the so-called "sweet game". They found it difficult to walk, had slurred speech and could not wake up, Ms Prior had told the court.

Children would often feel unwell the morning after, but Ruben would tell them they were "overwrought" and had no reason to be worried.

In November, he pleaded guilty to sexual assault of a child under 13, assault of a child under 13 by penetration, eight counts of child cruelty, three of making indecent images of children and four drugs charges.

The court heard at a previous hearing the defendant's stepson raised concerns with his partner during the camp after finding baby oil, Vaseline, syringes with white powder in and other items. He called the police to tell them of his suspicions.

The owners of Stathern Lodge are independent from those who use or hire the venue and were "not connected to the incident", police said.

The indecent images charges admitted by Ruben related to 50 category A indecent videos of children, 22 Category B videos and seven Category C videos made between August 2023 and June last year.

None of the images relate to children who were at the summer camp.

Ruben, who had been running the activity for at least 27 years, was sent back to HMP Leicester as he awaits tomorrow's sentencing.

Life for man who tried to shoot Trump

BY **ALLISTER HAGGER**

A MAN convicted of trying to assassinate President Donald Trump on a Florida golf course in 2024 was sentenced yesterday to life in jail.

District Judge Aileen Cannon pronounced Ryan Routh's fate in the Fort Pierce courtroom where he tried to stab himself shortly after jurors found him guilty last September.

Assistant attorney John Shipley said: "American democracy does not work when individuals take it into their own hands to eliminate candidates."

Routh's new defence attorney Martin L. Roth, argued: "At the moment of truth, he chose not to pull the trigger."

But the judge told Routh: "Your plot to kill was deliberate and evil."

Prosecutors said the would-be assassin aimed a rifle through shrubs as the then Republican presidential candidate played golf in September 2024. A Secret Service agent spotted Routh and opened fire causing him to flee, the court heard.

Brit punched for his life in shark attack

Peter in hospital with wife Joanna. Right, he is treated after horror attack by bull shark, below

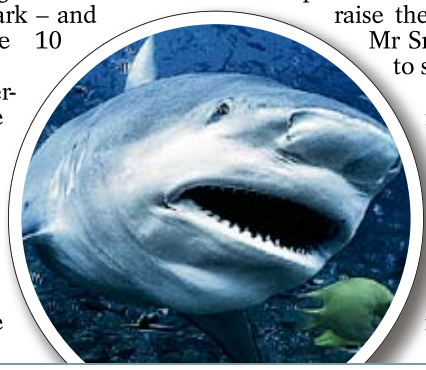
A BRIT nearly killed in a shark attack says he had to rain down punches on the predator to stop it savaging him.

Peter Smith, 66, was swimming off the coast of Tobago in April 2024 when he was struck by a bull shark in shallow water.

The retired IT director said: "It was the last hour of the last day. The conditions were perfect for a swim.

"I dived into the waves, swam out no more than 20 feet and stood waist-deep.

"Suddenly, I felt a very heavy object hit my leg. I look down and there's a shark – and it's big, maybe 10 foot."



In his first interview since the incident, Peter said he instinctively fought back.

He added to BBC News: "I start punching the shark. To be honest I don't know what I was trying to do, but I was hitting it.

"I can honestly say I've never hit anything as hard as I hit that shark."

Despite his efforts, the shark continued to attack, biting his leg, arm and stomach.

Peter went on: "After hitting my leg, it managed to attack my left arm and then my stomach. The situation got serious really fast. I lost a lot of blood."

But friends nearby in the water helped fend off the shark and raise the alarm, allowing Mr Smith to be pulled to safety.

Wife Joanna, a retired NHS worker, heard his screams from the beach.

She said: "I remember going into the water and seeing his terrible injuries. I could see bones, it was just awful."

Taken to the only hospital on the Caribbean island, Peter used up all its supplies of blood, and was then flown to Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami.

Doctors laughed during one of the dozens of procedures he needed over the next few weeks, a skin graft. Peter said: "So we were saying, 'Well, what's funny?' And they said, 'the membrane is made from shark'. So I have a piece of shark in my leg."

He had to relearn to walk due to a severe thigh wound, and nerve damage to his left arm has left his fingers numb.

But Peter, of Hertfordshire, looks on the bright side. He said: "I'm really grateful. At least I have limbs. At one stage it looked like I wasn't going to have any."

The International Shark Attack File confirmed that Peter's incident was the first and only recorded shark attack in Tobago. Expert Tom "The Blowfish" Hird said sharks were unfairly demonised, and often abandon attacks on humans once they realise they are not prey.

Peter said he had not been left traumatised by the incident, adding: "The people in Tobago were really good to me, I'd go back.

"What's the point in surviving a shark attack if you're going to live the rest of your life in fear?"

BY **CHRISTOPHER BUCKTIN**

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Sex, Drugs and Walking Sticks

by Dr Miriam Stoppard

Sex, Drugs and Walking Sticks

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Dr Miriam Stoppard

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AMAZON

ON SALE FROM ALL GOOD BOOKSHOPS AND AMAZON

Pictures: DANNY LAWSON/PA

Snoop Dogg at Team USA's welcome event

BY **LUCY READE** and **JEREMY ARMSTRONG**

TEAM GB is being tipped for its best-ever medal haul as the Winter Olympics opens with a spectacular ceremony in Milan tomorrow night.

Pop superstar Mariah Carey and opera legend Andrea Bocelli will take centre stage at the San Siro stadium as millions tune in to see a British team full of talent.

Spread across northern Italy, the 25th Winter Games will be marked with ceremonies and parades in Predazzo, Livigno and Cortina d'Ampezzo.

UK Sport predicts up to eight medals could be won by Brits – our record is five, at Sochi 2014 and Pyeongchang 2018.

Ice skating pair Lewis Gibson and Lilah Fear are "the new Torvill and Dean" after coming third in the world championships last year. They could bring home our first Olympic figure skating medal since 1994.

Lilah, 26, is flagbearer for the opening ceremony with bobsleigh pilot Brad Hall, 35. She said: "When I heard the news, I started crying, I was just flooded with so much emotion, honour, and pride."

Britain's curlers look set to add to their two medals from 2022, when the women brought home gold.

We also boast two of the best skeleton athletes in world champion Matt Weston and his team-mate Marcus Wyatt.

Mia Brookes, Kirsty Muir, Zoe Atkin and Charlotte Bankes are in with a chance of the nation's first Olympic gold or silver medal on snow.

The Games, which runs until February 22 with coverage on the BBC, will feature nearly 3,000 athletes from 90 countries vying for 116 medals at Milan-Cortina. Team GB has 53 athletes, with qualifying action under way. Rapper Snoop Dogg is also an honorary coach for Team USA.

Mia Brookes: Snowboarding (big air, slopestyle)

In 2023, Brookes became the youngest world champion in snowboarding history at the age of 16 with slopestyle gold. She has won back-to-back big air Crystal Globes and won World Cup gold in December. She also won slopestyle gold and big air bronze at the recent X Games.

Dates to watch: February 8 (big air qualifying), February 9 (big air finals), February 16 (slopestyle qualifying), February 17 (slopestyle finals).

Eddie couldn't see for third of jumps

EDDIE "The Eagle" Edwards says could not see during nearly a third of his ski jumps.

The underdog from Cheltenham, Glos, shot to fame by competing for Great Britain at the 1988 Calgary Winter Olympics.

Eddie, right, said his thick glasses frequently steamed up mid-jump. He said: "I could not see during 30% of my jumps. I was looking from the snow and the blue sky and I thought, Well there's blue up there so I'm the right way up', so I was able to land."

He told BBC Sport's Greatest Underdogs podcast when he took up the sport aged 22, coaches kept saying he would not succeed.

Eddie, now 61, said: "I kept proving them wrong. The worst thing people can say to me is 'you can't do it'." He finished last in the 70m and 90m ski jump events in Canada.

Matt Weston: Skeleton

Weston is a two-time world champion and won three successive overall World Cup titles between 2023 and 2026. He won five of seven World Cup gold medals this season, picking up silver behind team-mate Wyatt in the other two.

Dates to watch: Feb 12 (men's heats one and two), Feb 13 (men's heats three and four), Feb 15 (mixed team).

SKATE expectations

Team GB has high-flying hopes for a record medal tally on the eve of the Winter Olympics in Italy

Charlotte Bankes: Snowboarding (snowboard cross)

Bankes was crowned world champion in 2021. She won the mixed team title two years later with British team-mate Huw Nightingale. Bankes has twice won the Crystal Globe, the overall World Cup title, and finished second in the standings in 2024 and 2025, but was hit by a broken collarbone last year.
Dates to watch: February 13 (women's), February 15 (mixed team).

Lilah Fear & Lewis Gibson: Figure skating (ice dance)

In March, Fear and Gibson became the first British figure skaters to win a World Championship medal since Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean in 1984. Fear and Gibson won bronze in Boston, US, and have also won four European medals. The pair are two-time Grand Prix Final bronze medallists, too.
Dates to watch: February 9 (rhythm dance), February 11 (free dance).

Zoe Atkin: Freestyle skiing (halfpipe)

The current halfpipe world champion, Atkin has achieved three podium finishes from three starts on the World Cup circuit this season, including a gold. She also won gold at the recent X Games.
Dates to watch: Feb 19 (qualifying), Feb 21 (finals).

Kirsty Muir: Freestyle skiing (big air, slopestyle)

Muir is a two-time World Cup gold medallist, having won slopestyle gold in Tignes, France, last season and the big air title in Secret Garden, China, in November. In Aspen, Colorado, US, she won slopestyle gold and big air silver at the X Games.
Dates to watch: February 7 (slopestyle qualifying), Feb 9 (slopestyle finals), February 14 (big air qualifying), February 16 (big air finals).

GANG STEALS TRIBUTE

Four suspects are seen removing the statue from the plinth leaving just the feet, inset, in CCTV footage released by police

‘Theft was act of pure disrespect to Grandad by 4 scumbags’

Family’s fury at statue raid

EXCLUSIVE
BY **JAMES KNUCKEY**

A LEGENDARY boxer whose bronze statue was stolen from a park would have “knocked out” the brazen thieves who took it, his devastated family have said.

The monument honouring Teddy Baldock was put in place in 2014 after a four-year fundraising campaign by his grandson Martin Sax.

However, it was stolen from Langdon Park, Poplar, East London, on Sunday evening.

Four people dressed in black with their faces covered can be seen pulling it off its plinth in CCTV footage that has been released by police.

Martin, 56, said that the “scumbag” thieves showed disrespect to a local legend.

He said: “What would my grandad think of the statue being torn down by four scumbags?

“It wouldn’t have happened in his time because he was hero-worshipped.

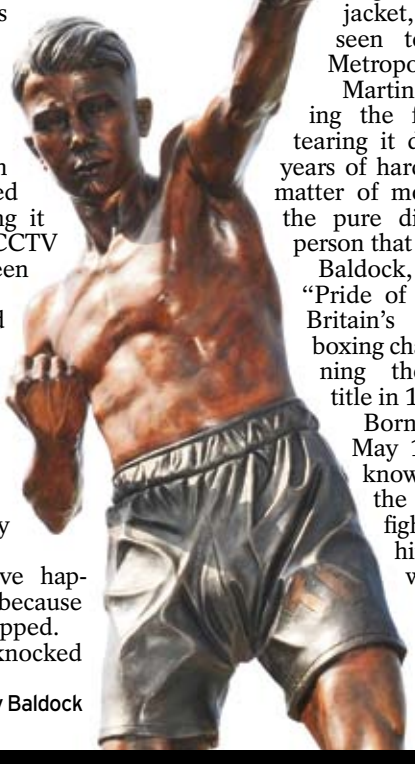
“He’d have knocked them all out.” The suspects prised the statue free from its stone plinth before placing it on a three-wheel cargo bike and covering it with a hi-vis jacket, with no tools seen to be used, the Metropolitan Police said.

Martin added: “Watching the footage of them tearing it down, I saw four years of hard work gone in a matter of moments, and also the pure disrespect for the person that stood there.”

Baldock, known as the “Pride of Poplar”, became Britain’s youngest world boxing champion after winning the bantamweight title in 1927 aged just 19.

Born in Poplar in May 1907, he became known for his speed in the ring, and his fighting style made him hugely popular with fans.

The poignant life-size statue, which was erected and unveiled in 2014, had



Stolen statue of Teddy Baldock

TO BOXING GREAT TEDDY

Baldock became Britain's youngest-boxing world champion aged 19 in 1927, but would die in poverty. Right, his grandson Martin unveils the statue in 2014 with his mum, who was the legendary fighter's only child

been sculpted by Staffordshire-based Carl Payne, who died in 2021.

Martin said he is now trying to track down the mould of the artwork to see if it can be recast, in the event the stolen statue is never recovered.

Describing how perfectly the statue had captured his grandfather, he said: "When I walked in and saw the clay model, I couldn't in my own head picture it any more perfectly than he had captured it.

Poverty

"My mum even had to have a little sit down, she was quite emotionally overwhelmed by seeing her dad, who she hadn't seen since she was 14, standing in front of her, life-size."

Martin never met his grandfather, who died when Martin was two years old.

Baldock retired from boxing aged 24 after winning 73 of his 81 professional fights – 37 by knockout – losing five and drawing three. After leaving the ring he sadly fell into poverty and spent time living on the streets of London.

He died in 1971, aged 63, with little public recognition for his sporting achievements.

The Met is continuing to appeal for information following the theft of the statue.

The force said the suspects were last seen heading northwards from the park towards Bromley-by-Bow Underground Station.

Detective Superintendent Oliver Richter said: "We understand this is a very distressing time for members of our community to have a monument of a local hero treated this way.

"I want to assure the public that our officers are working at pace to identify those responsible and will continue to follow every available line of enquiry.

"We'd appeal to anyone with information to get in touch with police."

The Express has contacted Tower Hamlets Council for comment.

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A brutal sports injury three years ago left physical therapist and former lacrosse star David Leach fighting for his life. Today, though paralysed, his extraordinary determination means he's still thriving.

David in hospital after his terrifying injury

Pictures: ANDREW HASSON

ON THE waiting room wall of osteopath David Leach's office is a signed picture from star Monty Panesar, thanking him for treating his shoulder. The former England spin bowler is just one of hundreds of people who have turned to David for relief after suffering debilitating pain or injury.

"People fly in to visit me at my clinic – I keep Luton Airport busy," chuckles David, who qualified in 1999. "I make a lot of jokes, we have a really good time."

His genial manner and expert knowledge aside, David is perhaps the most extraordinary osteopath working in the UK today.

That's because the 50-year-old, a former professional lacrosse player who once captained England and Wales, treats his patients without placing a hand on their body.

He is paralysed from the neck down after a freak accident on the sports field ended his playing career three years ago.

"With no hands I've had to think far more, I've done research and improved techniques," he explains.

"I've come to realise just how much I really do know.

"It's strange how a disability can actually make you better.

"By any normal definition, I shouldn't be working any more."

David has just enough hand movement to operate the controls of his electric wheelchair, but he needs help to eat, wash, dress and undress.

Yet aided by a team of carers, physios and osteopaths, he is able to work three days a week in his Luton-based clinic, diagnosing patients, creating treatment plans and getting big results. People from across the world seek him out, from the frail-bodied to top Olympians.

"One minute I will be treating a 19-stone body builder, the next it will be a premature baby suffering from colic," he says. "My job gives me a sense of purpose and without it I think I would have imploded."

It was in December 2022 when the married father of two attended an England selection lacrosse event in Oxford that changed his life forever.

A former player for top professional US team, the Colorado Mammoth, he had just begun mentoring the Welsh lacrosse team ahead of the indoor European championships in July.

"I dived on the ball and, as I did, another player – who must have weighed 15 stone – ploughed into me and put his knee straight into my neck," he recalls

"I was knocked out and there were people all around me.

"My arms were flailing about but I couldn't feel them. It was a very strange sensation. I quickly realised that something bad had happened."

At 47, David says he "flew too close to the sun" and shouldn't really have still been playing the game he loved and had enjoyed since he was a 12-year-old boy.

"I knew straight away something really bad had happened," he recalls today of that terrifying moment he realised he was paralysed.

"I tried to move my legs and nothing happened. I was on the pitch for about an hour before the ambulance came, and my breathing was getting more and more restricted.

"Still on the pitch, I asked for a phone and called my wife Louise to say goodbye. She was freaking out.

"She was standing in the kitchen at home in Hitchin with her family who were visiting from New Zealand.

"I was supposed to be coming home literally in two hours. I didn't come home for a year."

Despite it being the bleakest of moments, he had the presence of mind to think of others.

"I called my clinic and asked them to cancel my patients," he says.

"I knew I wasn't going to be in work for a while. I don't remember the pain, just shock."

DAVID was bleeding near his spinal cord. If he'd arrived at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford much later, he'd probably be dead. After immediate surgery on his neck he was transferred to Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge, where he remained in intensive care for several months.

After having a tracheostomy David had to learn how to breathe again, which he describes as torturous. While learning to breathe independently he slowly regained his voice. It took him a month before he could deliver a full sentence.

Aside from his wife, a radiographer at the Lister Hospital, and two

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David Leach at his Luton clinic and, inset left, in his wheelchair. Above, in action on the lacrosse field

The osteopath whose own neck is broken

daughters, Summer, 12 and Bella, 11, support came in from across the world of lacrosse, as well as from patients, family and friends.

"Six or seven people would visit me every day. That really helped to keep me going mentally," he says.

In the days, weeks and months that followed, he suffered dark moments as he came to terms with his inability to do even the smallest thing."Lying in a hospital bed, unable to move, unable to get comfortable, to press a button for help, breath without a machine, or even speak, just staring at the ceiling for months on end, I can't begin to explain the anger and frustration," he says. "But I could move my mouth a bit, smile and point with my tongue, so my wife Louise learned to lip read.

"She would sit on my bed staring at my face and I would mouth instructions about my business, who needed paying, what needed doing, bookings etc. As an osteopath I am used to fixing things and that instinct didn't stop."

An online fundraiser generated some £100,000 which has helped to pay for adaptations to David's home, like a lift to take him to his bedroom, ramps and widened doorways. It also paid for a modified minivan which he can fit his wheelchair in.

"I knew we were going to need a lot of money. You don't really get much help at all when something like this happens. Not enough to live a life."

Throughout those months of recovery and rehabilitation at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, David was determined that he would not lose his career and financial independence, as well as his mobility and physical independence.

Prior to the accident he had suffered a brain tumour and survived that surgery unscathed. He had also watched his older brother Robert beat leukaemia twice, only to finally succumb to the disease at 29.

"I already knew first hand what the power of a positive mental attitude can do, so I thought, 'If my brain works, then my career doesn't have to end'," he says.

"I started working on how I could go back to work. I started thinking about everything I knew and how to explain it."

At the hospital, he learned how to use his Apple software verbally so his voice became his notes.

He also used a video camera to make instructive videos.

HIS INITIATIVE and determination have paid off enormously. "Some of my patients come to me when they've been in constant pain for years," he says. "I can empathise with that as I am in pain, too. They find it inspiring that I am still upbeat, despite being in a wheelchair."

Away from work, David is determined to be the active father to his daughters he always was.

"I coach the girls' football team and I am out there on the sidelines in all weather," he smiles.

In return they do his hair, help him dress and take him out in his wheelchair.

"I thought they would be embarrassed of me but they aren't, they are wonderful. I get these spasms in my legs and I can't control them.

"It's happening now. They help strap my legs to the chair.

"I used to be that guy you went to when you wanted some help to lift things and do things. I used to love taking my girls swimming and throwing them about in the pool.

"But now I can't do that and it kills me, but I am still the same eccentric funny dad I was before."

He also continues to be involved in the world of lacrosse, the sport he loved for so long.

"I gave away all my gear to some young players about six months ago," he says. "That was really hard, but there is no point in having it in the house when I can't use it.

"Instead I coach lacrosse and have recently been asked by the Welsh lacrosse team to work with them. In many ways, my life is really hard. I am often in a lot of pain. But I am just not the sort of person who ever gives up."

● *To book an appointment with David Leach at the Luton Osteopathic and Sports Injury Clinic, visit losic.co.uk*

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Pictures: HYDRA DRONES LTD

Drone to airlift troops to safety

HYDRA 400 in action at plant and, inset, can be fully kitted out

EXCLUSIVE

BY **JAMES KNUCKEY**

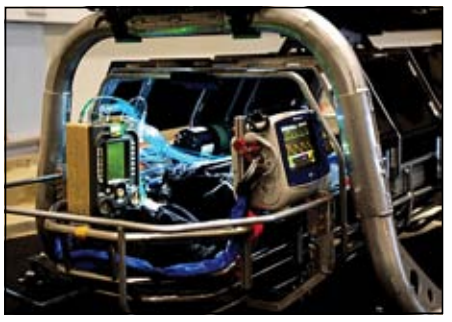
WOUNDED British troops could be airlifted to safety away from the front line by hi-tech drones.

A new ultra-heavy-lift craft is being billed as a low-cost alternative to helicopter medevacs.

Made in the UK, the HYDRA-400's flexibility means it can be deployed to carry injured soldiers or even be fitted with missiles, acting as "an Apache gunship in the boot of a soldier's car".

Its makers say it is equally suited to the civilian world, such as firefighting or disaster response.

The uncrewed aerial vehicle can be transported in the back of a flatbed truck and lift up to 400kg.



Hampshire-based maker Hybrid Drones believes its lift capability is greater than any UAV in the world.

Engineers also say it can be assembled and ready for flight in minutes and is already drawing attention from the British Army and several Nato partners.

Tom O'Connor, a former Army aircraft engineer and MD of Hybrid Drones, said while HYDRA is designed to carry out a range of duties, rescuing stranded soldiers is particularly important. He said: "Pulling somebody out of the field without risking any other lives, through using alternative platforms to get in there and get them help, is a challenge we want to take."

Ground drones have recently been deployed to pluck injured Ukrainian soldiers from battlefields and the UK is increasingly focusing on developing its uncrewed capabilities, as the tech has more than proved its worth in Kyiv's war against Russia.

Troops rescued by drone would be placed on a "casualty evacuation pod", equipped with everything found in an ambulance plus ballistic shielding.

Cleve Wiltz, of ZOLL Medical, which helped design the kit, said: "Our devices, such as patient monitors, ventilators, oxygen systems, blood warmers and infusion pumps, can be integrated on to drones so essential care can begin as soon as an injured person is reached."

At the moment, an injured soldier would have to get into the pod themselves or with help from a colleague, however there are plans for this to be done uncrewed, with an electronic arm winching casualties into place in the pod.

The HYDRA is said to be a significantly cheaper option than current defence helicopters, costing £1,080 per hour to operate, compared with £3,451 for Apache and £4,033 for Wildcat helicopters.

Its expected maximum range of 43.5 miles means it is also well-suited to moving ammunition and supplies. A prototype is set for further trials in the coming months.

Scammers use 'AI voice clones' to raid accounts

GANGS are using AI to clone voices and set up scam direct debits over the phone, trading standards chiefs have revealed.

They harvest people's personal data, often starting with a fake "lifestyle survey" phone call. The criminals then apply the info to make AI clones of bank account holders' voices and simulate verbal consent to trick firms.

Data from National Trading Standards shows adults receive seven scam calls or texts in a typical month – while 9% are targeted every day.

Louise Baxter, head of the NTS scams team, said: "This is no longer just a nuisance – it's a co-ordinated, sophisticated operation targeting some of the most situationally vulnerable.

"Speak to friends and relatives about scam calls, check bank statements regularly and report anything suspicious."

In its Operation Derdap, NTS blocked nearly 21 million scam calls and shut down 2,000 numbers in six months.

John Herriman, chief executive at the Chartered Trading Standards Institute, said: "This alarming new twist in phone-based fraud shows just how quickly criminals are exploiting emerging technologies."

NTS delivers national and regional consumer protection enforcement, via a board of heads of local government trading standards teams.

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For a greater challenge, try BEGINNER and INTERMEDIATE in 30 seconds. True mental gymnasts should try INTERMEDIATE and ADVANCED in 30 seconds together.

Today's answers can be found in the puzzles pullout

										YOUR ANSWERS
Beginner	33	+23	÷4	-6	SQUARE IT	+12	25% OF THIS	-5	x3	
Intermediate	321	-147	5/6 OF THIS	+83	INCREASE BY 25%	-153	7/11 OF THIS	+72	÷6	
Advanced	588	5/14 OF THIS	-86	INCREASE BY 75%	+152	÷9	-27	SQUARE IT	+183	

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LOTTERY

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16 29 32 36 37 10

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

EUROMILLIONS 26 27 28 34 37 4 9

THUNDERBALL 2 15 20 26 30 14

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SET FOR LIFE 2 6 31 39 42 5

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PHONE POLL RESULTS

We asked in our poll on Tuesday:

Should Lord Mandelson be stripped of his peerage?

YES: 94%

NO: 6%

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	3	4	2		5	7		
9		8			7		3	
		5		2			8	4
	9		5		6			
3	8				4	1		5
			7			6		
5		9		4	2	8	7	
	4				9		5	

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YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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4	9	3	1	6	7	5	2	8
2	8	6	3	5	4	9	1	7
9	3	5	8	1	6	2	7	4
7	6	1	2	4	9	3	8	5
8	4	2	7	3	5	1	9	6
1	5	8	4	9	3	7	6	2
3	2	4	6	7	1	8	5	9
6	7	9	5	8	2	4	3	1

Lindon's painting in a needle's eye

Micro-Picasso no small achievement for artist

BY **AMY REAST**

MOUNTED inside the eye of a needle, this Picasso replica is 381,250 times smaller than the original.

It was lovingly painted over several months by artist David A Lindon, whose paintbrushes include a hair from a dragonfly's leg.

He worked at night from his Bournemouth home to avoid the "vibrations of daytime traffic" – and painted between his own heartbeats in a meditative state.

Despite his precautions, his micro-version of The Weeping Woman almost ended in disaster.

A giant ladybird landed on his easel, surprising him and causing his fingers to twitch. The sudden movement ripped his 1mm x 0.8mm painting into invisible pieces.

David, 56, said: "It was shredded – like Banksy's Love Is In The Bin."

Undaunted, he used a microscope to reassemble the masterpiece and said it was one of the best micro-paintings he had done.

After taking it to the Tate Modern in London to compare it with the original, he added: "I couldn't help wondering what Picasso would have thought." David's previous microscopic works include zoo animals, Banksy reproductions and a Mickey Mouse. He said: "What keeps me going through the long hours is seeing the look of wonder and astonishment on people's faces.

"I am always looking to improve and to see just how small I can go."

David compares micro to masterpiece

BY **PAUL JEEVES**

How obesity crisis puts 999 crews under strain

FIREFIGHTERS have to rescue dangerously overweight casualties every three hours and 20 minutes on average, due to Britain's obesity crisis.

The 999 crews spent the equivalent of more than a full year on such emergencies between 2020 and last year.

Brigade bosses warn frontline crews are being put under increasing strain with call-outs that often require heavy-lifting equipment, the removal of windows and doors, and hours of gruelling physical labour.

The scale of the problem is revealed in Freedom of Information figures that show firefighters faced 15,849 incidents involving obese patients in 2020-25. Crews spent a total of 553,609 minutes on the emergencies, equivalent to 384.5 days of continuous work.

The crisis is worst in the capital, where the London Fire Brigade responded to more than 2,000 such incidents, costing the service over £1million. Tom, 30, an LFB firefighter, warned the "epidemic" is putting first responders at risk of life-changing injury.

He said: "Jobs that would be straightforward with a casualty of a healthier weight become physically damaging and exhausting.

"Removing a severely overweight casualty from a fire would mean working harder, using more air and staying longer in a dangerous environment, significantly increasing the risks of heat exhaustion, collapse and fire spread."

Tom revealed one colossal operation lasted 10 hours, with five fire engines, police and specialist paramedics for a single patient.

Tom added: "We had to remove a ground-floor balcony, take out three French doors, build a ramp capable of supporting his weight, and set up a line system to lower him down.

"It took nine firefighters to lift him from the chair on to an upright stretcher. One of my crew injured his back."

From 2020-24, bariatric rescues soared 76%, from 1,804 incidents to 3,183, almost nine per day, health experts ZAVA found.

South Wales Fire and Rescue Service recorded the second highest figures at 1,174 incidents. There was a 146% increase in calls in Northern Ireland over four years.

Dr Crystal Wyllie, of online medic service ZAVA, said: "We can see a natural impact that bariatric care has not only on the NHS but also on other public services such as fire and rescue services."

Dinsdale Joke Shop co-owner Graham Wiliams at his 'time-warp' store in Hull

Whoopee! Life's still a gas at Britain's oldest joke shop...

BY **CHARLIE FENTON**

THE OWNER of the nation's oldest joke shop says favourite pranks from when it was founded in 1930, like whoopee cushions and fake poo, remain the best sellers.

Graham Williams, grandson of Dinsdale Joke Shop founder George Dinsdale, said: "It seems humour hasn't changed too much.

"Magic sliding coin tricks, sneezing powder, itching power, snappy gum and fake decks of cards, the classics are still the favourites.

"Some things change over time but the core jokes are the same."

George opened in Hull as a gramophone, record and repair shop but feared radio would kill vinyl and diversified into comics then jokes.

The store has passed down four generations to Graham, 47, who started working there aged 18, and his cousin Angela Dinsdale, whose dad – also George – ran it at one time.

Apart from the old jokes, the curiosity shop – which features on guided walks of Hull – looks much the same as it did in 1930.

Graham said: "I kept all the original fittings, like the windows that have all the features going back to the 1940s, 1950s, 1960s.

"People say it's like a time-warp."

However, not everything remains from 95 years ago.

Graham said: "Some items you would never get away with selling now and wouldn't dream of it. Some were just downright racist and sexist. But, all in all, it seems we find the same things funny as we did 95 years ago." Famous fans of the shop over the years have included Lord John Prescott, Tommy Cooper and Inside No9's Reece Shearsmith.

Graham said: "There is so much sadness in the world. Making you laugh is a good thing."

Founder George Dinsdale and, right, hamming it up with his son George Alfred

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TECH SHAPE OF THE FUTURE

Edited by **DAVE SNELLING**

JOIN GARMIN'S GOLF CLUB

Garmin has launched a duo of devices aimed at guiding you around the golf course. The new Approach J1 is a smartwatch aimed at junior players. It features GPS location tracking, tee-off guidance, personal par alerts and a pace-of-play timer.

It's also waterproof, so won't be affected by a downpour on the greens. You can expect to pay £309.99.

Next, there's the Approach G82 tool, which comes with a large 5in high-resolution touchscreen, full course guidance, aerial imagery for spotting bunkers and metrics on how well you are playing. It costs £519.99.

FRESH AIRTAG

Apple has just upgraded its much-loved AirTag. This diddy disc-shaped device has been helping people find their keys, bags and wallets since 2021.

Now the AirTag is back with more powerful location tracking, a louder built-in alarm and improved security.

It also lets users share the tag's location with trusted third parties, such as airlines, so they can assist in recovering delayed luggage or other lost items. The AirTag2 is available now at Apple, from £29.

O2 REWARDS

Virgin Media and O2 customers could get a sweet bonus through their free Priority service. For the chance to win £10,000, members simply need to head to the Priority app and enter their details by February 23.

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IN A CLASS OF ITS OWN BUT IT WILL COST YOU

The new Mercedes S-Class won't cause any rows about who is sitting in the back, as that's the best place to be.

This latest luxury saloon offers rear passengers a truly first-class experience with plush reclining massage seats, huge TV screens, a fridge to keep the champers chilled, and even heated seatbelts for more comfort.

There are detachable remotes to control everything, and folding airline-style tables create a comfortable work space.

Mercedes has even added an enhanced Teams Meetings app and internal cameras for video calls to the office while you're on the move. To make sure the ride from A to B is as smooth as silk, the new S-Class has a clever trick up its sleeve. Its superbrain automatically talks to other cars in the area to get real-time data on road conditions and if there are any potholes nearby. AIRMATIC air suspension is then adjusted accordingly to keep lumps and bumps to a minimum.

Drivers also get plenty of other tech treats with a huge Superscreen covering the dashboard.

The car is also covered in cameras and sensors to make sure cyclists and pedestrians stay safe, and scratches to the shiny bodywork are avoided.

It will also park itself and can be fully controlled via voice commands.

All this means the S-Class certainly won't be missed when it pulls up alongside you at the traffic lights.

It also gets an imposing front grille and an upright Mercedes star on the bonnet, both of which glow at night.

Of course, all this luxury doesn't come cheap, though. Prices start from over £100,000.

RECLINING *Massage seats*

PLUSH *Car also has a superbrain*

Future face of play time

The annual Toy Fair at London's Olympia has just showcased what will be on kids' wishlists in 2026. But it's not just about little ones. The 'kidult' market continues to boom with more adults than ever joining in the fun. Here, toy expert PETER JENKISON reveals the top picks

BLOKEES SESAME STREET

£9.95, Star Action Figures

After being taken in by Netflix, Sesame Street will be streamed ad-free for the next couple of years. So we should expect some interesting arrivals on the toy scene as it finds a new audience. For kidults, these fun collectables featuring A-listers like Bert and Ernie, Oscar and Count von Count will evoke plenty of nostalgia.

CANDYLABS ROADWORKS

Little Concepts

Candylabs is taking things back to basics with wooden cars that are surprisingly fun to play with. The latest setup elevates the brand to compete with the incumbents in the toy car market, and they'd better watch their backs.

This new modular range called Roadworks adds jumps, twists, turns and loops to treat your Candylab cars to a few spins. It's a set-up you won't want to take down. More details and prices coming soon.

SPYRA THREE

£144, Spyra UK

Spyra is taking soaking games seriously, elevating water wars to a new level. From entry-level electronic blasters to ones that fire pre-filled water bombs, the Spyra Three model has a trio of water-delivery modes and an LED display to keep an eye on your ammo supply and battery. Send soaks that'll truly surprise opponents at a decent distance.

SPY LABS SNAKE SCOPE

£29.99, Thames and Kosmos

At first glance, the Spy Labs' Snake Scope is akin to an intrusive medical instrument you'd like to avoid. The 20in arm can be bent to almost any angle and, armed with a camera and LED light at the tip of its scope, lets you peer into hard-to-reach places and spaces. The image is transmitted to the handheld LCD display – peer around corners, get up close to your goldfish, or take easier meter readings.

YUBIBO

£22.99, Zatu Games

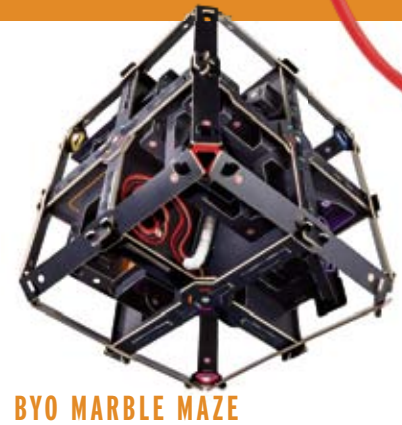
Best described as Twister for your fingers, this simple game is going to be hard to topple as the best quick-play title of this year. You get a bunch of sticks, some foam balls and the all-important play cards.

Connect the sticks to the digits indicated and attempt to get all the sticks in play to beat the game.

ROBOSEN SOUNDWAVE

£1,299, Robosen UK

One for Transformers fans. The latest arrival from the consumer robot brand is the must-have Soundwave. Featuring authentic voice lines, 200 of them, it transforms from a cassette player to a robot, acts as a Bluetooth speaker and supports app-based control and programming. Inside are 28 servo motors, 84 chips, and it will respond to over 40 voice commands. It's a lot of tech, but it does come at a cost.



BYO MARBLE MAZE

£24.99, Amazon

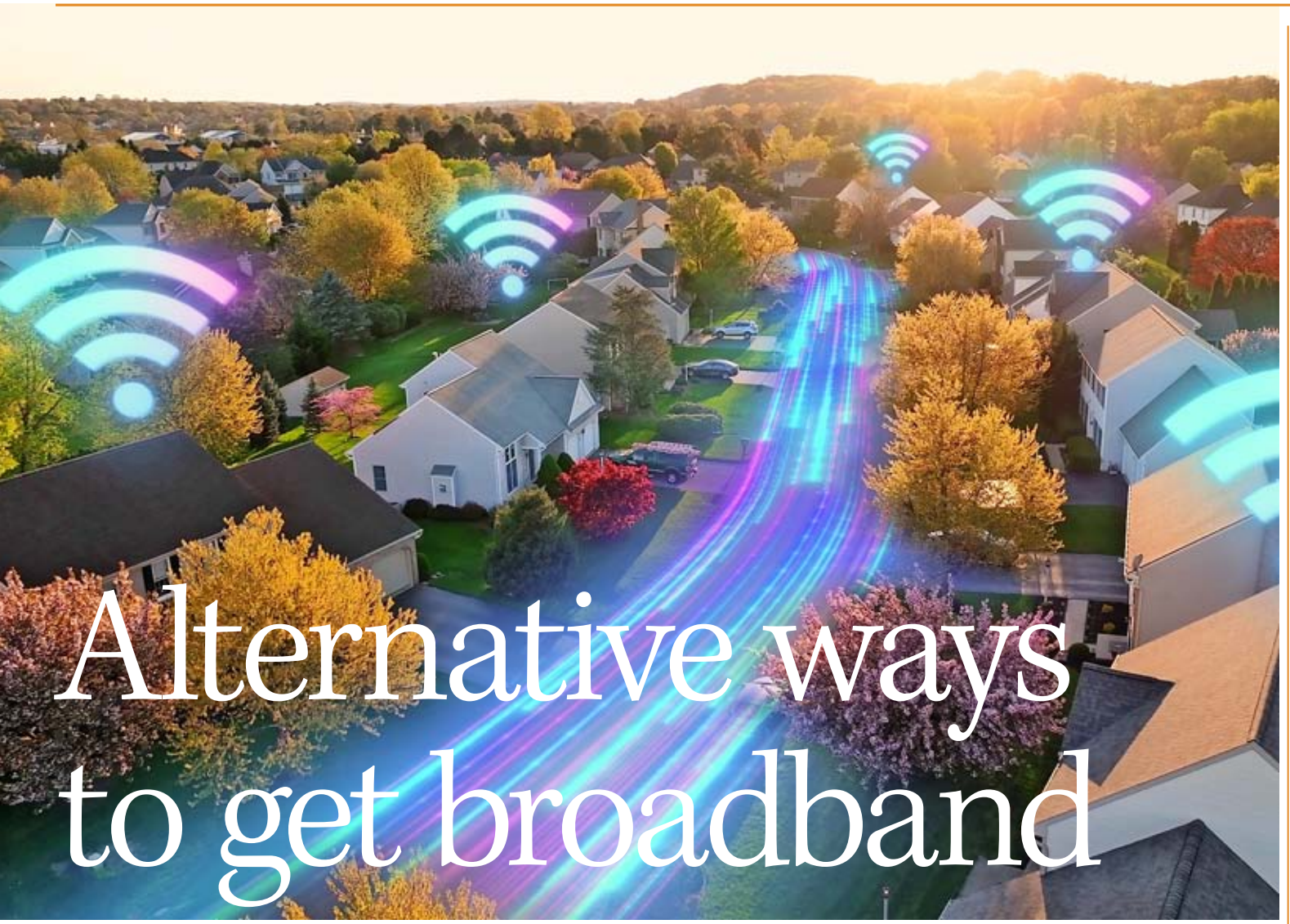
Inside the unassuming box, you'll find more than 100 press-out parts to construct the eight cubes, which, when completed, all come together to form the ultimate 3D maze.

Stick your ceramic sphere inside and make your way through the multitude of challenges inside with cautious twisting and turning. It's entirely addictive. Complete with a stand so it can be on display when not in use, and taunt you.

FLIP N TRIX

£6, Goliath Group

No doubt, we all carry less change in our pockets. The downside, apart from having nothing to release supermarket trollies with, is settling scores with a heads/tails flip. This digital coin makes it more of a game and will count the number of flips it makes in motion. It's also the perfect size for that unused pocket in your jeans.



Alternative ways to get broadband

As prices are set to rise again, it's time to find a better offering for less

Broadband prices are about to rise again for millions of homes across the country, and it's bad news for those monthly bills. BT is the latest provider to announce its hikes, which will kick in from April, with most customers being hit by a standard £4 rise, no matter what they pay right now. That might come as a big shock to some. In the past, consumers faced a percentage increase to their bills, meaning the less they paid, the lower the rise would be.

However, early last year, the industry regulator, Ofcom, changed the rules.

This means telecoms firms can increase their customers' bills by a flat rate, which they can apply to everyone. It's known as the "pounds and pence" scheme and is meant to make bill increases more transparent.

PREPARE
For BT bill rise

Like most other providers, BT has set the rate at £4. So if you pay £20 now, you'll soon pay £24. BT says it is hiking prices to help improve its service and keep people connected. EE, which is now owned by BT, is also hiking things by the same £4 price, with Virgin Media and Plusnet also confirming a similar rise.

If this news has got you thinking about your finances, then now might be a good time to shop around.

There are lots of deals on the market, and it's a good idea to see if any smaller providers – known as alternative networks – have sprung up in your area.

For example, Community Fibre has just launched an offer with those signing up getting free access for the first three months.

Even when the deal ends, prices are very reasonable, with 300Mbps speeds costing just £21 per month.

There are also no hikes with that price locked in for the entire contract.

Other smaller providers such as Toob have 1Gbps speeds from £25 per month, and Gigaclear prices start from just £17, so it's worth shopping around.

To see what internet service providers are in your area, head to Ofcom's simple postcode checker at checker.ofcom.org.uk/en-gb/broadband-coverage.

Cheaper way to get a phone

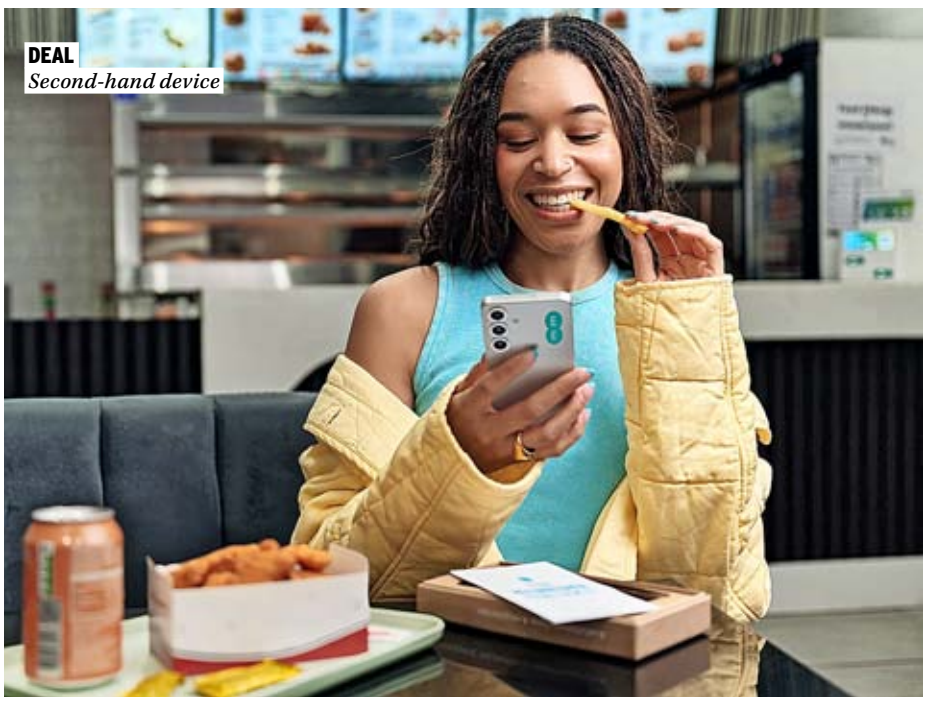
Buying a new iPhone or Samsung Galaxy device is never going to be cheap, but a new EE incentive should make it feel more affordable.

The UK network has just announced the launch of contracts offering fully refurbished devices rather than brand-new phones.

That might sound a little scary, but EE says that all second-hand devices will be thoroughly tested via a 53-point quality inspection, and even come with an extended warranty that covers manufacturer faults for the entire lifetime of the customer's plan.

EE has confirmed that prices will start from as little as £31 per month and will be available on up to 36-month Flex Pay agreements.

This helps to spread the cost of the handset over a prolonged period – just like those buying a brand-new smartphone on contract.



DEAL
Second-hand device

GAMING NEWS

By **TOM HUTCHISON**

TIME'S UP *Sands of Time shelved*

Game maker Ubisoft has cancelled six top titles amid surging costs. The long-awaited blockbuster remake Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time is among the games ditched by the French hitmaker. Ubi, known for franchises like Assassin's Creed and Far Cry, has closed two studios as a result.

Bosses hope it'll help them "reset" the company for future success on machines like PS5 and Xbox Series X.

The move comes at a time when studios are increasingly turning to video game remakes and remasters as development costs soars.

Ubisoft boss Yves Guillemot said: "While these decisions are difficult, they are necessary for us to build a more focused, efficient and sustainable organisation over the long term.

"These measures mark a decisive turning point for Ubisoft and reflect our determination to confront challenges head-on to reshape the Group for the long term."

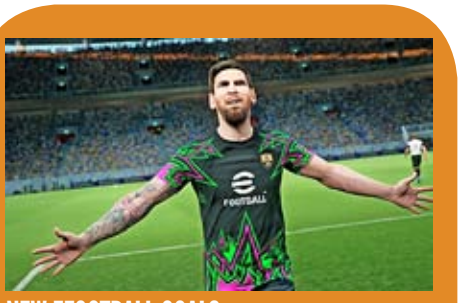
Gaming industry analyst Piers Harding-Rolls said the move indicated the firm was trying to mitigate risk.

"It's less risky to maintain scale by investing in existing big franchises such as Assassin's Creed and Rainbow Six than launch entirely new IPs (intellectual property) and that's reflected in the cancellation of a number of games based on new IPs."

Yves said the cuts are in part due to a competitive market for triple-A games – blockbuster titles that cost millions to develop.

He said: "The triple-A industry has become persistently more selective and competitive with rising development costs and greater challenges in creating brands."

Ubisoft will now focus on developing open world adventure games, which let players freely navigate vast environments, and live service games that seek regular payments from players.



NEW EFOOTBALL GOALS

Soccer game eFootball has hit 950 million global downloads as gamers enjoy its free-to-play access.

Maker Konami is delighted that the hit simulation title is heading towards the one billion threshold and PS5 and Xbox players across the world are enjoying being teams like Arsenal and Man Utd in the title.

It is offering fans a special campaign to celebrate its latest milestone featuring Michael Carrick's resurgent Red Devils.

A spokesman said: "Users can earn renowned Manchester United legends and take part in a special campaign featuring in-game events and earn distinct rewards, as well as login bonuses of eFootball coins.

"Users can earn a club pack featuring Manchester United's starting 11 players.

"Additionally, distinguished legends of this historic club such as Big Time: George Best, Epic: Peter Schmeichel and Epic: Bryan Robson are now available to add to the squad."

What Porsche sorcery is this?

There's magic in the air and on the roads, with this Porsche 911 Turbo's transformation into a Sorcerer. Singer, an American restoration company that specialises in modernising classic Porsches, created this beauty for one lucky customer.

The Sorcerer is equipped with a 3.8-litre twin-turbocharged, flat-six engine that develops 690bhp and 750Nm of torque, while power is transmitted through to a six-speed manual gearbox with drive going to the rear wheels. A 0-60mph time, top speed and price has not yet been revealed.

The bodywork is made from carbon fibre to reduce weight and it's painted in a unique shade of graduated Fantasia Blue. It gets 19in front wheels, 20in rear forged magnesium wheels and Pebble Grey leather upholstery inside plus a discreet navigation system.

MOTORING TESTED TRUSTED DRIVEN

VOLVO LAUNCHES REVAMPED EX60

Volvo's new EX60 is built on its "SPA3" platform, with three battery options and 800V architecture for ultra-rapid charging.

Entry-level "P6" has a 83kWh battery paired to a rear-mounted electric motor for a 385-mile range. The "P10" has a larger 95kWh dual-motor for all-wheel drive and a range of up to 410 miles. The Flagship "P12" comes with a 110kWh battery, dual electric motors, all-wheel drive and a claimed 503 miles between top-ups.

The exterior has slim front headlights, vertical taillights, flush door handles and tall doorlines. Inside, there's Volvo's latest "UX" infotainment system with Google Gemini voice activation.

Inside you'll find a square-shaped steering wheel, a digital display, and storage space.

Prices are yet to be revealed, although it's thought the P6 and P10 will hit showrooms in summer and P12 will go on sale in 2027.

SANDERO A HERO OF EURO MARKET

Dacia's Sandero has remained Europe's best-selling car for a second year.

Worldwide sales totalled 289,295, with one in 55 cars sold in Europe being a Sandero. Now priced from £14,765 (it launched in 2013 priced £5,995), Dacia has sold more than 260,000 in the UK.

The brand has since introduced other models, including the Duster, Bigster and electric Spring city car. The Sandero now has new LED light signatures and redesigned front and rear bumpers. In addition, an upgraded Stepway version, from £16,000, brings extra body protection on the outside, as well as a 10in infotainment system and wireless smartphone charging on the inside. The Romanian manufacturer also just won the famous Dakar Rally with its Sandrider vehicle piloted by Nasser Al-Attiyah.

New update for the Alfa Junior

The Alfa Romeo Junior has had an update for 2026 with the introduction of fresh trim levels.

This is the smallest model built on Stellantis' "STLA Small" platform, with the Junior range now consisting of a new "Ti" trim level, which boasts heated and electrically adjustable seats, a leather steering wheel, privacy glass and aluminium pedals. There is also a "Sport Speciale" variant with matrix LED headlights, a powered tailgate, updated cameras and Alcantara seat upholstery. Both hybrid and electric powertrains are available.

The electric "Elettrica" variant has a 54kWh battery pack paired to an electric motor, producing 156bhp and can travel 255 miles. There is also a hot Veloce model that produces 280bhp.

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LEADING THE CHARGE

The new IM5 EV is part of an upmarket sub-brand for MG, and while it is epic in terms of charging speed and comfort, it's not as polished as its rivals

Since 2011, the now Chinese-owned brand MG has pivoted from a maker of saloons and sports cars into one of the best-known EV builders. However, the firm is now focusing on premium touches and refined driving characteristics with its"IM" sub-brand and new car, the IM5.

WHAT'S NEW?

IM stands for Intelligent Mobility, and although it may sound like a tech start-up, it has been designed to differentiate from the wider MG line-up. The IM5 arrives alongside the IM6, a crossover-style model with the same selection of powertrains. Both cars get a high level of in-car tech and every feature you can think of.

WHAT'S UNDER THE BONNET?

The IM5 is available with a trio of powertrains including Standard Range, Long Range and Performance. We're testing out that middle set-up, with the longest range of the three.

It can do 441 miles while a maximum charge speed of 396kW makes it one of the speediest you'll find on any EV today. In fact, the IM5's large 96.5kWh battery will go from 10-80% in just 17 minutes.

Performance-wise, the IM5 will manage zero to 60mph in 4.6 seconds. The range-topping Performance model will manage it in a scarcely believable 2.9 seconds.

FACTS

MG IM5 100 Long Range

Price: £44,995
Engine: Single rear electric motor
Power: 401bhp
Torque: 500Nm
Max speed: 137mph
0-60mph: 4.6 seconds
MPG: N/A
Emissions: 0g/km
Range: 441 miles
Maximum charge: 396kw

WHAT'S IT LIKE TO DRIVE?

The seating position in the IM5 is refreshing. In the recent age of crossovers and SUVs dominating, being able to sit quite low in the car is something of a novelty, but it does lead to a lovely cocoon-like feeling here. The IM5 is hushed at motorway speeds, reflecting that greater emphasis on refinement. As a long-distance cruiser it does very well.

At slower speeds, there is a slightly sharp edge, and the car struggles to settle down no matter what speed you're doing. The steering is largely devoid of feel, but this afflicts many new cars today. Visibility, however, is pretty poor; the rear screen is tiny and even though there are plenty of cameras and sensors, the lack of rearward sight is a pain.

HOW DOES IT LOOK?

Reflecting a current "soap bar" trend visible across many EVs, the IM5 is smooth and rounded, but in white, like our test car, it's all quite nondescript. It'd be nice to have a few more features to talk about.

WHAT'S IT LIKE INSIDE?

Front passengers get a low-slung and comfortable place to be. The front seats are pleasantly made, too, and the deep-pile carpets are a high-end touch. The interior is dominated by screens, with a huge central display managing heating and ventilation, while a top-level one handles navigation and speed readouts. In truth, it's all a bit of a pain to use and even adjusting the heated seats is more attention-grabbing than it needs to be. Some physical buttons would help. Boot space stands at a very usable 457 litres and you've also got a handy "frunk" which adds 18 litres of storage space.

WHAT'S THE SPEC LIKE?

Though IM is designed as a more premium offering, its cars are still priced competitively. The Long Range starts at £44,995 and highlights include electrically adjustable front seats, two-zone climate control and keyless entry. Both front and rear seats are heated, too, and something which boosts IM5's cold-weather performance is a standard-fit heat pump.

In contrast, the Standard Range starts at £39,450, while the range-topping Performance kicks off from £48,495.

VERDICT

The IM5 brings many plus points. For the price, there are few cars which offer the same level of performance and range, while its charging speed outpaces nearly all other EVs on the road today. It's also comfortable and would be a good partner on long-distance drives.

It just doesn't feel quite as polished as others in the market, while its screen-heavy layout simply isn't as intuitive – or as safe – as a set-up with more physical controls. It's not a bad car by a long stretch, but the IM5 lacks the overall finish of some of its more accomplished rivals.

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- ✓ Includes heat insulating cover
- ✓ Folds down flat for easy storage

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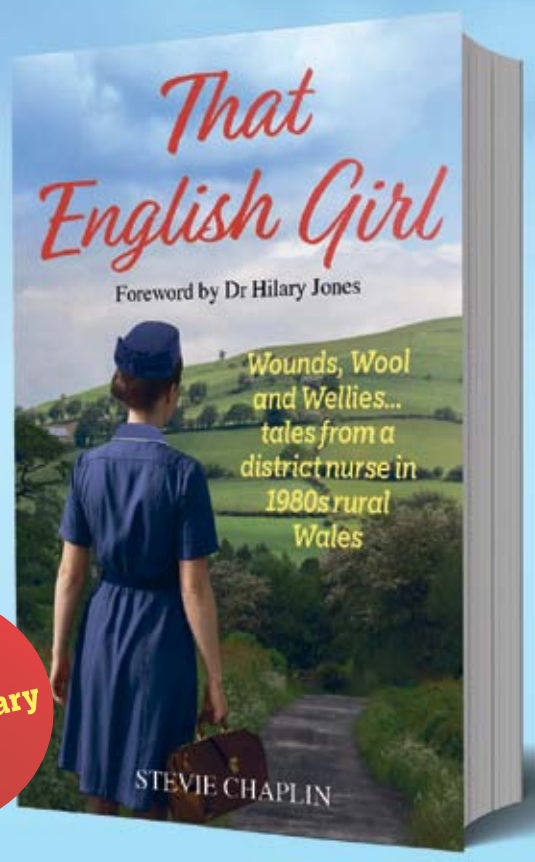
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Foreword by ITV's Dr Hilary Jones

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TODAY'S TV ONES TO WATCH

by **MIKE WARD** *TV critic*

Pick of the day
DRAGONS' DEN
BBC1, 8PM

THE APPRENTICE, BBC1, 9PM

LORD Sugar asks the candidates to target the children's market – not directly, because that might be considered somewhat immoral – but by creating a story and audiobook that caring parents would consider a worthwhile investment. One team decides to exploit children's love of toilet humour, while the other lot come up with a story about zebras.

And would it surprise you to hear that both sides carry out the task with calmness and professionalism? Yes, I thought it might. Needless to say, they do no such thing. Several candidates manage to tap into their inner child, but I don't think they mean to.

DIGGING FOR BRITAIN, BBC2, 8PM

ON AMAZON you can buy a metal detector for as little as £30. You can obviously buy them from other places as well, but with my Amazon Prime account I could get mine tomorrow, with free delivery. And I must say I'm tempted. In the Digging For Britain tent, presenter Alice Roberts takes a look at a pair of Roman swords, discovered during a metal-detecting rally (those sound great, count me in) near Cheltenham.

Even more remarkable, the guy who found them was a novice. This was only the second time he'd been out detecting. My only worry would be that I'd never top that. Not unless I dug up a chariot.

ROAR BUSINESS TALENT
Gary and the Dragons

WHOLE NEW BALL GAME FOR GARY

ARE you a big fan of golf? I can't say it appeals to me. At least, not the grown-up version. I used to quite like the mental golf, the kind with mini windmills etc, down at the seafront, but I don't think it's there any more. (I don't think the golf is there, I mean. I'm not aware they've taken the seafront away.)

One thing that puts me off, I admit, is I can't hit a golf ball for toffee. I'm also aware it involves precision and patience. Patience I'm hopeless with. Precision comes a close second.

But until I watched tonight's Dragons' Den, I never knew about the problem of dirty balls. (Sorry, is something amusing you? Would you like to share it with the class..?) According to the creators of a product called Swish, a dirty golf ball can mean "less accuracy, less control and, even worse, potentially a lost game".

As the moment, I gather that golfers who need to clean their balls (oh, for God's sake, behave) rely on a damp towel, a static golf ball-washer on the course ("In our experience, these are dry and smelly...") or pure human spit, presumably their own.

Swish is a compact, portable alternative.

"Pop your dirty ball in, give it a few swishes, dry it, and it comes out spotless, ready for the perfect shot." I suspect the "perfect shot" part is a promise too far, but other than that will the Dragons be sold? You'd imagine this week's guest Dragon, footballer-turned-businessman and pundit Gary Neville, would be keen. The man kicked balls for a living and now gets paid to talk them, so he's bound to enjoy hitting them with a stick.

Also seeking investment is a lady who wants us to rub food waste on our faces. Ideally, the food waste from which she's created one of her highly innovative beauty products. Apparently, Italian food waste is particularly good for your skin. Tomato skins, crushed olives etc.

Whether you could make your own I'm not sure, but it must be worth a go. If you don't have any Italian food waste to hand, maybe try some leftover curry or cold chips.

What's the worst that could happen?

BEST SPORT
SIX NATIONS LIVE ITV1, 7.20PM

Jill Douglas presents the opening match of the championship, France v Ireland, held at the Stade de France in Paris. Commentary by Miles Harrison and Ben Kay.

BEST PROPERTY
GEORGE CLARKE'S BUILDING HOME C4, 8PM

George meets people taking on challenging builds for emotional reasons. Lauren and Lee are in Matlock Bath to restore a cottage Lauren inherited from her grandparents.

BEST DOC
I AM NOT OKAY - SPOTLIGHT BBC2, 9PM

Reporter Tara Mills meets mothers who are struggling to cope with their sons' needs which can often lead to aggressive outbursts and leave themselves and their family hurt.

BEST NATURE
BEN FOGLE: NEW LIVES IN THE WILD 5, 9PM

Ben is back in the UK. He'll be staying on board a narrowboat with Dave, whose move to an off-grid life on the Cheshire canals became a lifeline after personal tragedy.

TODAY'S PREVIEWS ARE ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE

FILM RATINGS

★★★★★ BRILLIANT
★★★★ VERY GOOD
★★★ GOOD
★★ AVERAGE
★ BAD

(R) REPEAT

ALL PROGRAMMES ARE LISTED IN GREENWICH MEAN TIME (GMT).

BBC One

6.00am Breakfast News headlines.
9.30 Morning Live Magazine.
10.45 Rip Off Britain: Holidays (R)
11.15 Homes Under the Hammer Houses are appraised in London and Co Durham.
12.15pm Bargain Hunt The red and blue teams shop in Kent. (R)
1.00 BBC News at One; Weather
2.00 Lost and Found in the Lakes The detectorists search for a ring lost on a family farm nearly 50 years ago. (R)
2.30 Marcus Wareing Simply Provence The chef presents a twist on a classic Sunday roast using chicken. (R)
3.00 Escape to the Country (R)
3.45 Clean It, Fix It Cleaners and DIY experts help a man reclaim his home. (R)
4.30 Antiques Road Trip Margie Cooper and Danny Sebastian seek items in South Yorkshire and Derbyshire.
5.15 Pointless Quiz, hosted by Alexander Armstrong, with guest co-host Konnie Huq. (R)
6.00 BBC News at Six; Weather
6.30 Regional News; Weather

BBC Two

6.15am Homes Under the Hammer In Herefordshire. (R)
7.15 Escape to the Country (R)
8.00 Sign Zone: Robson Green's Weekend Escapes (R)
8.30 Sign Zone: See Hear
9.00 LIVE Winter Olympics 2026 Great Britain v Estonia (start time 9.05am). Coverage of the curling mixed doubles round-robin match from Italy.
11.00 BBC News Headlines.
12.15pm Politics Live
1.00 Bridge of Lies (R)
1.45 Unbeatable Quiz. (R)
2.15 The Boss Quiz show. (R)
3.00 The Vintage French Farmhouse (R)
3.45 Who Do You Think You Are? USA With Bryan Cranston. (R)
4.15 Japan: Earth's Enchanted Islands On Hokkaido. (R)
5.15 Flog It! In Derbyshire. (R)
6.00 Richard Osman's House of Games Trivia-based games.
6.30 Clive Myrie's African Adventure Double bill. Clive visits Casablanca; in the Rif mountains. Last in series.

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain A lively mix of news, current affairs and lifestyle features.
9.30 Lorraine Entertainment and the latest fashion news.
10.00 This Morning Topical daily magazine, featuring a mix of celebrity chat, showbusiness news, advice and discussion. Including Local Weather.
12.30pm Loose Women Celebrity interviews and topical debate.
1.30 ITV News; Weather
1.55 Regional News; Weather
2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal David Dickinson and the team are in Cirencester, where one seller is hoping to get an offer from Jan Keyne for his watch. (R)
3.00 Time Is Money Quiz, hosted by Sara Davies. Last in series.
3.59 Regional Weather
4.00 Deal or No Deal Contestant Dave tries to open the 22 red boxes in the right order.
5.00 The Chase Gordon, Miriam, Rachel and Selwyn take part. Bradley Walsh presents.
6.00 Regional News; Weather
6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather

Channel 4

6.25am Cheers Triple bill. (R)
7.50 Everybody Loves Raymond Triple bill of the comedy. (R)
9.10 Frasier Four episodes. (R)
11.10 American Pickers (R)
12.05pm Channel 4 News
12.10 Car S.O.S Fuzz and Tim take on their first ever Honda. (R)
1.10 Find It, Fix It, Flog It (R)
2.10 Countdown Dr Ranj Singh is in Dictionary Corner.
3.00 A Place in the Sun (R)
4.00 A New Life in the Sun In France, chateau owners Sharon and David host an elaborate masked ball.
5.00 Chateau DIY: Win the Dream The breakfast room challenge reaches its critical conclusion as guest judges Donna and Paul Newman return to help Max McMurdo make a difficult decision.
6.00 A Place in the Sun Craig Rowe helps George B and George S find their dream holiday home in the French countryside of Haute-Vienne, The pair have a maximum budget of £75,000.

5

6.00am Milkshake! Children's TV.
9.15 Jeremy Vine Discussion.
11.30 Storm & Alexis Debate.
12.45pm 5 News at Lunchtime
12.50 Matt Allwright Debate.
2.00 Vanessa Discussion show.
3.00 The Madame Blanc Mysteries Tragedy strikes when a TV crew come to film an antiques show at Jeremy and Judith's summer home. (R)
4.00 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun Val races to prep her Halloween disco, Adrian and Debbie hope their Turaco finds love, Paige performs for care-home residents, and Frank makes a big sacrifice.
5.00 5 News at 5 Headlines.
6.00 Love Nature Three hundred years ago Red Kites were a thriving species in Northern Ireland, but due to disruption of their precious habitats, the bird went extinct from the island of Ireland.
6.05 The Motorway A Tesla smashes into the central reservation of the M62. (R) Followed by 5 News Update

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7

7.00 The One Show Hosted by Alex Jones and Roman Kemp.
7.30 EastEnders Denise and Kim rally around Patrick, Priya and Ravi make a move to protect Nugget, Barney is left in distress, and Honey tries her best to reassure Bea.

7.30 The Real Strictly Come Dancing: Access All Areas A look behind the scenes at the National Dance Championships as it celebrates its 50th anniversary, following three couples from practice to performance. (R)

7.20 LIVE Six Nations France v Ireland (kick-off 8.10pm). Jill Douglas presents coverage of the opening match of the championship, which is taking place at Stade de France in Paris. Tonight's hosts are the reigning champions, having won four games in 2025, the same as England and this evening's opponents, but claimed one bonus point more. The French's 42-27 victory in Dublin in the fourth round of fixtures proved pivotal, but it was the Irish who prevailed 38-17 in Marseille when the sides last met in this competition on French soil in 2024. With analysis from Brian O'Driscoll, Rory Best and Benjamin Kayser, reports from Ronan O'Gara and Gabriel Clarke, and commentary by Miles Harrison and Ben Kay.

7.00 Channel 4 News A round-up of all the latest headlines, in-depth interviews and analysis of political developments and current affairs. Plus, the day's leading sports stories and up-to-the-minute weather reports.

7.00 The Underground Map of Britain A fact-fuelled ride through London's tube network, mapping out the history of the world's first underground railway system, that carries 1.3 billion people a year. (R); 5 News Update

8

8.00 Dragons' Den Businessman, broadcaster and former footballer Gary Neville returns to help judge pitches including skincare made from rescued food, a device that keeps golf balls spotless and spicy seasoning balls.

8.00 Digging for Britain A team looks for evidence that St Michael's Mount in Cornwall was the fabled trading hub of Ictis, plus an analysis of 291 bodies from the long-lost Dominican friary of St Saviour's. Last in series.

8.00 NEW George Clarke's Building Home The architect meets more people taking on challenging builds. In Matlock Bath, Lauren and Lee hope to restore a charming but faded cottage that Lauren inherited from her grandparents.

8.00 Spain with Michael Portillo Michael travels to Mallorca, starting in the capital Palma, where he heads to the top of its cathedral. Later he goes to the north, once almost cut off from the rest of Mallorca by the Tramontana mountains.

9

9.00 The Apprentice Lord Sugar tasks the candidates with creating a children's story and audio book. However, unfinished illustrations and a poor storyline mean the fairy tale soon ends for another contender in the boardroom.

9.00 I Am Not Okay – Spotlight Women talk to Tara Mills about the challenges of living with autistic sons who are violent towards them. They tell her they feel judged by a system that is meant to protect them, and feel there is no safety net.

9.00 Michael Jackson: The Trial Documentary examining the 2005 criminal trial, which followed dramatic revelations that singer Michael Jackson had shared a bed with teenager Gavin Arvizo.

9.00 Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Wild Ben stays in Northern England to explore a different kind of wild living. Joining Dave on a narrowboat, he discovers how the canals offered him solace and a renewed sense of purpose.

10

10.00 BBC News at Ten
10.30 Regional News; Weather
10.40 Question Time Fiona Bruce presents the topical debate, inviting a panel of politicians and other guests to answer questions from an invited audience in Dorking, Surrey, on the subjects that have been making the headlines.

10.00 The Apprentice: Unfinished Business Angela Scanlon and her special guests take a deep dive into the candidates' performances. Plus, a chat with the next person to leave.
10.30 Newsnight Analysis with Paddy O'Connell; Weather

10.35 ITV News A fresh perspective on the major stories of the day, featuring national and international headlines, with reports and analysis from ITV's correspondents. Plus, the latest political updates, sports and weather reports.

10.00 24 Hours in A&E Double bill. Three pedestrians are brought in to Queen's Medical Centre following an incident in which a car mounted the pavement. The most injured patient, 18-year-old Mica, has suspected head injuries. Elsewhere, a man is escalated to Resus as staff suspect the 61-year-old may be having a stroke, while a 19-year-old is admitted after cutting her leg on a night out; a 56-year-old man is airlifted to Nottingham's Queen's Medical Centre after crashing his motorbike at speed. (R)

10.00 A Killer Makes a Call: The Canterbury Murders A look at the murder committed and reported by Foster Christian, who claimed he was being attacked in his own home. But later, survivor statements told a very different story. (R)

11

11.40 Newscast A panel of BBC journalists hosts a weekly round-up from Westminster, delivering the usual mix of serious analysis and chat about the biggest stories.

11.05 Mystery Road: Origin The theft of old files leads to a familiar face, but learning of a local rivalry gives Jay a new suspect in the shooting. Australian crime drama, with Mark Coles Smith, Tuuli Narkle and Robyn Malcolm.

11.10 Regional News; Weather
11.25 Local Political Programmes Discussion and analysis.
11.50 The Murder of Jade Ward: Social Media Murders The death of the mother of four days after ending her relationship with her controlling husband. (R)

11.05 My Lover, My Killer Factual crime documentary series, this time looking at how Raneem Oudeh's final attempt to escape Janbaz Tarin's control resulted in a horrific double murder, despite her calls for help. (R)

12 MIDNIGHT

12.10am The Weakest Link. Johnny Vegas, Fay Ripley, Chesney Hawkes, Sarah Greene, Minah Shannon, Emmanuel Sonubi, Ruth Davidson and Jamie MacDonald compete to be the strongest link. (R) **12.55** Would I Lie to You? (R) **1.25** Weather for the Week Ahead **1.30-6.00am** BBC News

12.00m't Sign Zone: See Hear. A deaf mountaineer's attempt to climb the highest peak on every continent. (R) **12.30** Sign Zone: Gladiators (R) **1.30** Sign Zone: Call the Midwife (R) **2.30** Sign Zone: Waiting for the Out (R) **3.15** Sign Zone: Confessions of a Killer (R) **4.15-6.15am** This Is BBC Two

12.40am Shop on TV **3.00** Jimmy & Shivi's Farmhouse Breakfast. Jimmy Doherty and Shivi Ramoutar are joined by chef Ainsley Harriott, who samples a croque monsieur pancake bake for breakfast and barbecue chicken with potato salad. (R) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05-6.00am** Deal or No Deal (R)

12.05am Sky Coppers (R) **1.05** In the Footsteps of Killers (R) **2.00** Ramsay's Hotel Hell (R) **2.50 FILM** Name Me Lawand (2022, PG) Documentary about a profoundly deaf boy from Iraq. ★★★ **4.25** Sunday Brunch (R) **4.40** The Great Pottery Throw Down (R) **5.45-6.25am** Countdown (R)

12.05am Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders (R) **1.00** PlayOJO Live Casino Show **3.00** Friends: double bill (R) **3.45** Ice Age: A Frozen World (R) **4.35** The Highland Vet (R) **5.25** Entertainment News on 5 **5.35** The Adventures of Paddington (R) **5.45-6.00am** Milo (R)

ITV2 FREEVIEW 6

6.00am CITV **7.30** Celebrity Dinner Date **8.30** Georgia and Tommy: Happy Essex After **9.25** The Only Way Is Essex **10.25** The Real Housewives of Miami **11.20** The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills **12.15pm** Dinner Date **1.15** Celebrity Dinner Date **2.15** The Only Way Is Essex **3.15** The Real Housewives of Orange County **4.10** The Real Housewives of Miami **5.00** The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills **6.00** Celebrity Catchphrase

7.00 Deal or No Deal Gameshow.

8.00 The Real Housewives of Orange County Heather's party wraps up just as Tamra arrives with her plus-one.

9.00 Love Island: All Stars Famous former Islanders get another shot at finding love.

10.05 Piglets Bob is oblivious to Melanie and Daz getting physical, and someone uncovers a photographic memory.

10.35 Family Guy Animated double bill.

11.35 American Dad! **12.35am** Bob's Burgers **1.35-2.30am** Deal or No Deal

ITVQuiz FREEVIEW 28

9.00am Deal or No Deal **10.00** Tipping Point **1.00pm** Lingo **2.00** Tenable **3.00** Beat the Chasers **4.00** Time Is Money **5.00** Deal or No Deal. Gameshow.

6.00 Lingo Triple bill. Crossing words to beat the reigning champions this time are sisters Lauren and Ellie from Solihull and friends Gill and Sue; taking on the champions are mother and daughter Amanda and Emily, and brothers Martyn and Stuart; crossing words with the reigning champions this time are mother and daughter Sue and Dani, and cousins Millie and Jess. Presented by Adil Ray.

9.00 Ant & Dec's Limitless Win Cousins Adele and Adele take on the money ladder, playing for a truly life-changing cash prize, before soon-to-be married Zanesh and Melike get their chance.

10.00 Tipping Point Double bill. Ben Shephard hosts the quiz show.

12.00m't Tipping Point **12.55** Tenable **1.50** Unwind **2.00-9.00am** Teleshopping

BBC3 FREEVIEW 23

7.00pm The Catch Up The news.

7.05 SpongeBob SquarePants Double bill. SpongeBob visits his old pal Bubble Buddy; Sandy invites Karen and Mrs Puff for a night out.

7.30 Deadly 60 Creatures inhabiting the Gomantong cave system.

8.00 Top Gear Winter Olympics Special The presenters use cars to compete in Winter Olympic events.

9.00 Sin City: The Real Las Vegas Double bill. Tir Dhondy reveals the realities behind modern Las Vegas.

10.30 FILM **Get Out** (2017, 15) After a photographer and his girlfriend visit her parents, he suspects there is more to the locals than meets the eye. Thriller, starring Daniel Kaluuya and Allison Williams. ★★★★★

12.10am FILM Just Mercy (2019, 12) Fact-based drama, starring Michael B Jordan. ★★★★ **2.20-3.50am** Sin City: The Real Las Vegas

BBC4 FREEVIEW 9

7.00pm Great British Railway Journeys Michael Portillo begins the latest leg on the seafront at Felixstowe, where in 1953 the town was engulfed in the worst flooding to hit England in the 20th century.

7.30 Coastal Path Exploring the coastline of southern Cornwall.

8.00 FILM **The Man Who Would Be King** (1975, PG) Two former British soldiers in 1880s India decide to set themselves up as Kings in Kafiristan. Adventure, starring Sean Connery and Michael Caine. ★★★★★

10.05 Sean Connery: Talking Pictures A profile of the actor.

10.50 FILM **A Bridge Too Far** (1977, PG) Fact-based Second World War drama, with Dirk Bogarde. ★★★★

1.40am Great British Railway Journeys **2.10-3.40am** Brian Cox: Seven Days on Mars. Behind the scenes at Nasa's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

GB News FREEVIEW 236

6.00am Breakfast with Stephen and Ellie **9.30** Britain's Newsroom **12.00noon** Good Afternoon Britain **3.00** Martin Daubney. Updates.

6.00 Dewbs & Co Plain-speaking, straight-talking – Michelle Dewberry delivers her take on the day's news.

7.00 Farage An action-packed hour of topical discussion and debate.

8.00 Jacob Rees-Mogg's State Of The Nation Join Jacob for his unique and unmissable take on the news.

9.00 Patrick Christys Tonight Replay Join Patrick for two hours of spirited debate and news making interviews. Guests tackle the issues that matter, with a sharp take on every story.

11.00 Patrick Christys Tonight Late Edition Discussion and debate.

12.00m't The Late Show Live **2.00** Farage Replay **3.00** Patrick Christys Tonight Replay **5.00-6.00am** Patrick Christys Tonight Late Edition

U&Dave FREEVIEW 19

7.10am Gordon's Great Escape **8.00** Border Force: America's Gatekeepers **10.00** How Britain Worked **11.00** Rick Stein's Secret France **12.00noon** Bangers & Cash **2.00** Extreme Fishing with Robson Green **3.00** Top Gear **5.00** Hairy Bikers' Best of British

6.00 Rick Stein's Secret France The chef heads through Alsace and Jura.

7.00 Would I Lie to You? With guest panellists Alan Davies, Richard Osman, Germaine Greer and Jermaine Jenas.

7.40 Richard Osman's House of Games

9.00 QI XL Extended edition. With the Rev Richard Coles, Sarah Millican and David Mitchell. Stephen Fry hosts.

10.00 Have I Got a Bit More News for You With Tom Allen and Emma Barnett.

11.00 Taskmaster Tim Vine is left bereft by a small piece of bent metal.

12.00m't Would I Lie to You?. Panel show. **12.40** Mock the Week **2.00** Silence Is Golden **4.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

U&Drama FREEVIEW 20

6.00am Teleshopping **7.30** The Bill **8.25** Doctors **9.35** Classic Holby City **10.35** Classic Casualty **11.40** The Bill **12.40pm** Classic EastEnders **2.00** All Creatures Great and Small **3.00** Howards' Way **4.10** Bergerac **5.20** The Thin Blue Line

6.00 Last of the Summer Wine Triple bill.

8.00 Kingdom Lyle helps a horse trainer lease a field for his prize racer, but finds his loyalties tested when travellers take up residence. Robert Bathurst guests.

9.00 Harry Wild A mystery novelist is found dead in a locked panic room with no gun.

10.00 New Tricks A cassette from 1983 is found to include the voice of a murdered girl – but most puzzling of all is how she was reading from a top-secret document.

11.20 Waking the Dead Part two of two. Elizabeth Andrews' hospital visitor is also abducted. With Sharon Maughan.

12.40am Sister Boniface Mysteries **1.40** The Thin Blue Line **2.25** Last of the Summer Wine **2.55-4.00am** Harry Wild

E4 FREEVIEW 13

6.00am Modern Family **6.55** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **7.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **9.00** The Goldbergs **10.00** Modern Family **11.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **1.00pm** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.00** The Simpsons **3.00** The Goldbergs **4.00** Modern Family **5.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine

6.00 The Simpsons Four episodes.

8.00 First Dates Twenty six-year-old Charlie says some people describe her optimism as 'relentless', she's matched with a 25-year-old Australian osteopath.

9.00 Gogglebox Double bill. Opinions on TV from May 2021, including Line of Duty; opinions on TV shows from May 2021.

11.05 Open House: The Great Sex Experiment A gay man seeks to explore his possible bisexual tendencies.

12.05am Naked Attraction. Dating show. **1.10** First Dates **2.10** Gogglebox **3.05** Naked Attraction **4.00** The Goldbergs **4.50-6.00am** Don't Tell the Bride

More4 FREEVIEW 18

8.55am Strangers on a Plane **9.30** Find It, Fix It, Flog It **10.25** A Place in the Sun **11.30** Come Dine with Me: five episodes **2.10pm** Four in a Bed: five episodes **4.50** A Place in the Sun **5.55** Car S.O.S

6.55 Car S.O.S Tim and Fuzz restore a 1990s Japanese super saloon.

7.55 The Dog House Regal basset hound Duchess is back on the charm offensive, this time with childhood sweethearts.

9.00 24 Hours in A&E Mark, a 35-year-old long-term resident at a neurological hospital, is rushed in struggling to breathe, while three-year-old Thomas is brought in with a high temperature.

10.00 24 Hours in Police Custody Police investigate a knife and gun attack on the doorstep of a man's house.

11.05 999: On the Front Line Paramedics are called to a road traffic collision.

12.10am 999: On the Front Line **1.15** 24 Hours in A&E **2.20** 24 Hours in Police Custody **3.25-3.55am** Food Unwrapped

Variations & S4C

WALES As BBC1 except: 1.35-1.45pm BBC Wales Today. A round-up of the headlines; Weather **6.30-7.00** BBC Wales Today; Weather **10.30-10.40pm** BBC Wales Today; Weather

WALES As BBC2 except: 7.30-8.00pm Scrum V: The Warm Up. A look ahead to England v Wales. **9.00-10.00pm** Keeping the World Away – Finding Gwen John. Sian Eleri explores the life of one of Wales's greatest female artists.

MERIDIAN As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Meridian; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News Meridian. A round-up of the headlines; Weather **11.10-11.20pm** ITV News Meridian; Weather

CENTRAL As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Central; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News Central. A round-up of the headlines; Weather **11.10-11.20pm** ITV News Central; Weather

ITV WALES As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Cymru Wales; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News Wales at Six; Weather **11.10** ITV News Cymru Wales; Weather **11.20-11.50pm** Welsh Lives. At the Theatr Felinfach in Ceredigion.

WEST As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News West Country. The latest headlines; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News West Country; Weather **11.10-11.20pm** ITV News West Country

ANGLIA As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Anglia; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News Anglia. A round-up of the headlines; Weather **11.10-11.20pm** ITV News Anglia; Weather

WESTCOUNTRY As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News West Country; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News West Country; Weather **11.10-11.20pm** ITV News West Country

S4C 6.00am Cyw **12.00noon** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **12.05pm** Dim Byd i'w Wisgo **12.30** Heno **1.00** Sgwrs Dan y Lloer **1.30** Y Deis **2.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **3.05** Taith Bywyd **4.00** Awr Fawr **5.00** Stwnsh **6.00** Stiwdio24/7. Music by Cyn Cwsg, Ani Glass and Taran. **6.30** Ciao! Colleen Ag Owain **6.57** Newyddion S4C **7.00** Heno. Nightly magazine programme. **7.30** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **8.00** Pobol y Cwm. Eileen suffers guilt as Iolo and Cai try to find Liv and the baby. **8.25** Rownd a Rownd **8.55** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **9.00** Pawb a'i Farn. Debate. **10.00** Cynefin **11.00-11.35pm** Cysgu O Gwmpas

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Sport

SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT

6.00am Sky Sports News **7.00** Sky Sports Breakfast. The latest headline reports. **9.00** LIVE **DP World Tour Golf** The Qatar Masters. **2.00pm** LIVE **WPL** Coverage of the final. **5.30** The Premier League Show. Updates. **7.00** LIVE **Premier League Darts** The first round of the season, which takes place at Utilita Arena. **11.00** LIVE **PGA Tour Golf** The WM Phoenix Open. Coverage of the early stages of day one of the tournament at TPC Scottsdale in Arizona. **12.30am** Sky Sports News. Headlines. **2.00** The NFL Honours **4.00-6.00am** Sky Sports News

SKY SPORTS CRICKET

6.00am WPL **7.00** ICC Under-19s World Cup Cricket **9.00** Best of ICC WT20 **9.15** Best of England v South Africa **9.30** Best of ICC WT20 **9.45** WPL **1.15pm** Best of England v South Africa **1.30** Best of ICC WT20 **1.45** My Icon **1.50** LIVE **WPL** Coverage of the final. **5.30** Best of ICC WT20 **5.45** Best of England v South Africa **6.00** ICC Under-19s World Cup Cricket **7.00** WPL **8.00** WPL **9.00** ICC Under-19s World Cup Cricket **10.00** ICC Under-19s World Cup Cricket **11.00** WPL **3.30am** Best of England v South Africa **3.45** Best of ICC WT20 **4.00-6.00am** WPL

SKY SPORTS FOOTBALL

6.00am Championship Retro **8.00** EFL Greatest Games **10.00** EFL Cup **11.00** Best Goals of the Carabao Cup 2020/21 **11.30** EFL Trophy Football **12.00noon** EFL Cup **2.00** EFL Greatest Games **2.15** SPFL Highlights **2.30** EFL League One Goals **3.00** EFL League Two Goals **3.30** Bundesliga Highlights Show **4.30** WSL **5.00** EFL Highlights **6.15** SPFL Highlights **6.30** Bundesliga Weekly **7.00** EFL League Two Goals **7.30** LIVE **EFL** Accrington Stanley v Salford City (kick-off 8.00pm). From Wham Stadium. **10.30** SPFL Round-Up **10.45** SPFL Highlights **11.00** Bundesliga Weekly **11.30** EFL League One Goals **12.00m't** EFL Greatest Games **12.30** 1983: When Aberdeen Ruled Europe **1.30-6.00am** SPFL Greatest Games

SKY SPORTS GOLF

6.00am TGL. Atlanta Drive Golf Club v Jupiter Links Golf Club. **8.00** PGA Tour Golf **9.00** LIVE **DP World Tour Golf** The Qatar Masters. Coverage from day one of the tournament. **2.00pm** TGL Bitesize. NY Golf Club v Atlanta Drive. **2.15** LIVE **PGA Tour Golf** The WM Phoenix Open. **12.30am** PGA Tour Champions **1.30** The Open – Official Films **3.30** PGA Tour Golf **4.30** Chronicles of a Champion Golfer **5.30-6.00am** Nick Dougherty's Tee Time Tips

TNT SPORTS 1

8.00am Premier League Reload **8.15** Original Documentary **9.30** Crouchy and Cole **9.45** Men's Cycling Pro Series. Action from the first stage of the 2026 Tour of Valencia. **10.45** LIVE **Women's Cycling World Tour** Coverage from the first stage of the UAE Tour. **12.45pm** LIVE **UEC Track Cycling Elite European Championship** Coverage from the fifth day of the event, which takes place in Konya. **2.30** LIVE **LIV Golf** Coverage from the second day of the first round of the season, which takes place at Riyadh Golf Club in Saudi Arabia. This is the fifth year of the controversial series which has seen players leave the PGA Tour to join this event. Previous winners of the series include Dustin Johnson, Talor Gooch and Jon Rahm, who has come out on top in the last two seasons. **8.30** Premier League – The Big Interview **9.00** UEFA Champions League – Classics **11.00** UEFA Champions League Magazine **12.00m't** Serie A – Full Impact **12.30** Ultimate Pool **2.00** Premier League – The Big Interview **2.30** Isuzu UTE A-League Highlights **3.00** LIVE **A-League Women** Wellington Phoenix Women v Perth Glory Women (kick-off 3.00am). **5.00** TNT Sports Reload. The best bits. **5.30-6.00am** Isuzu UTE A-League Highlights

TNT SPORTS 2

6.00am Original Documentary **7.00** Winter Olympic Games **7.30** Power of Olympics **8.00** Winter Olympic Games – Curling **9.00** LIVE **Winter Olympic Games – Curling** Great Britain v Estonia. The match from the round robin stage of the mixed doubles event. **11.00** LIVE **Winter Olympic Games – Ice Hockey** Sweden v Germany. The Group B match from the women's preliminary round in Milan. **1.45pm** LIVE **Winter Olympic Games – Ice Hockey** Italy v France. Coverage of the Group B match from the women's preliminary round. **4.15** LIVE **Winter Olympic Games – Ice Hockey** USA v Czech Republic. The Group A match. **6.15** Athletes to Watch. A profile of the athletes. **6.30** LIVE **Winter Olympic Games – Snowboarding** The qualifying for the men's snowboard big air, at Livigno Snow Park. **8.45** LIVE **Winter Olympic Games – Ice Hockey** Finland v Canada. The Group A match. **10.45** Athletes to Watch **11.00** Winter Olympic Games – Curling **12.00m't** Winter Olympic Games – Snowboarding **1.00** Winter Olympic Games – Curling **2.00** Original Documentary **3.00** Winter Olympic Games – Curling **4.00** Winter Olympic Games – Snowboarding **5.00-6.00am** Winter Olympic Games – Curling

Entertainment & Factual

ITV3 Freeview 10

6.00am Never the Twain **6.30** On the Buses **7.05** Classic Emmerdale **8.10** Classic Coronation Street **9.10** Inspector Morse **11.20** Heartbeat **1.20pm** Foyle's War **3.30** Classic Emmerdale **4.40** Classic Coronation Street **5.50** Heartbeat **8.00** Vera **10.00** Foyle's War **11.50** Trial & Retribution **12.50am** The Larkins **1.50-2.30am** Unwind

ITV4 Freeview 26

6.00am The Big Match Revisited **8.05** Magnum, PI **9.05** Kojak **10.05** Boon **11.15** The Sweeney **12.20pm** Robin of Sherwood **1.30** Magnum, PI **2.35** Kojak **3.45** Boon **4.50** The Sweeney **5.55** Minder **7.00** River Monsters **7.30** Great Racehorses **7.55** LIVE Copa del Rey. Real Betis v Atletico Madrid (kick-off 8.00pm). The quarter-final at Estadio la Cartuja. **10.00** Ice Road Truckers **10.55** Ligue 1 Highlights **11.25** FILM Reservoir Dogs (1992/18) Thriller, with Harvey Keitel and Tim Roth. ★★★★★ **1.10** Berlin Station **2.10** Auto Mundial **2.40** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30-4.00am** Motorsport Mundial

5STAR Freeview 32

8.00am Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun **10.00** Shoplifters: Caught Red Handed **11.00** Traffic Cops **2.00pm** Police Interceptors **5.00** Fare Dodgers: At War with the Law **6.00** Home and Away **7.00** Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts **8.00** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. A man with a lump. **9.00** A&E After Dark **10.00** Ambulance: Code Red **11.00** Skin A&E **12.00m't** Call the Bailiffs: Time to Pay Up **1.00** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords **2.00** GPs: Behind Closed Doors **2.45** Skin A&E **3.35-4.00am** Friends

REALLY Freeview 44

6.00am Celebrity Fantasy Homes **7.00** Cruise TV with LoveitBookit **8.00** Escape to the Country **9.00** Salvage Hunters **12.00noon** Antiques Road Trip **2.00** The Repair Shop **3.00** The Yorkshire Auction House **4.00** Long Lost Family **6.00** Money for Nothing **7.00** Salvage Hunters **9.00** Ghost Adventures **11.00** Help! My House Is Haunted **2.00am** Teleshopping **4.00-6.00am** Salvage Hunters

5ACTION Freeview 33

9.00am Entertainment News on 5 **9.05** Traffic Cops **10.05** Police Interceptors **12.05pm** FILM Man Without a Star (1955/PG) ★★★★ **2.00** FILM Pillars of the Sky (1956/PG) ★★ **4.00** Trucking Heavy **5.00** Traffic Cops **6.00** Police Interceptors **8.00** Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders **9.00** Mud Mountain Haulers. The crew return home to log a local block. **10.00** Outback Truckers **11.00** Banged Up Abroad **12.00m't** World's Deadliest Weather: Caught on Camera **1.05** Ice Road Truckers **2.05-4.00am** Trucking Hell

SKY ARTS Freeview 36

6.00am Pavarotti: The Duets – The Best of Pavarotti and Friends **7.30** The Joy of Painting **9.00** Tales of the Unexpected **10.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.00** The Directors **12.00noon** Discovering: Buster Keaton **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Painting Birds with Jim and Nancy Moir **3.00** Bagpipes: A Celebration **4.00** The Directors

FBI
Sky Witness, 9pm
As the US drama returns for new season, the team discovers that a missing federal judge had been searching for his son on a secluded island. Plus, Jubal (Jeremy Sisto, left) struggles with his new role.

5.00 Discovering: Olivia de Havilland **6.00** Tales of the Unexpected **7.00** Landscape Artist of the Year 2026 **8.00** Chaplin: The Birth of the Tramp **9.15** FILM Modern Times (1936/U) Satirical comedy, starring Charlie Chaplin. ★★★★★ **10.45** The Directors **11.45** The Life and Deaths of Christopher Lee **1.50am** Science Fiction in the Atomic Age **2.50** Laurie Lee: The Lost Interview **3.45** Sky Arts Book Club **4.45-6.00am** National Trust: National Treasures

U&GOLD

7.35am Ever Decreasing Circles **8.10** The Green Green Grass **8.50** Dad's Army **9.30** Are You Being Served? **10.10** Porridge **10.45** Keeping Up Appearances **11.25** Last of the Summer Wine **12.40pm** The Green Green Grass **1.20** Ever Decreasing Circles **2.00** Dad's Army **2.40** Are You Being Served? **3.20** Porridge **4.00** Ever Decreasing Circles **4.40** Last of the Summer Wine **6.00** Keeping Up Appearances **6.40** Porridge **7.20** Dad's Army **8.00** Only Fools and Horses: three episodes **10.00** Not Going Out **10.40** Only Fools and Horses: three episodes **12.40am** Not Going Out **1.20-4.00am** Avoidance

U&YESTERDAY Freeview 27

6.10am Great Continental Railway Journeys **8.00** Bangers & Cash **10.00** Auschwitz: The Nazis and the Final Solution **11.00** Secret Nazi Bases **12.00noon** Antiques Roadshow **2.00** Bangers & Cash **4.00** Auschwitz: The Nazis and the Final Solution **5.00** Secret Nazi Bases **6.00** Antiques Roadshow **7.00** Great Canal Journeys **8.00** NEW Bangers & Cash **9.00** Flipping Bangers **10.00** Bangers & Cash **12.00m't** Abandoned Engineering **2.00-3.00am** Masters of Reinvention

U&ALIBI

7.15am Murdoch Mysteries **9.00** Father Brown **10.00** The Mentalist **11.00** Hudson & Rex **12.00noon** Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries **1.00** Death in Paradise **2.00** Murdoch Mysteries **4.00** The Mentalist **5.00** Hudson & Rex **6.00** Father Brown **7.00** Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries **8.00** Death in Paradise **9.00** Father Brown. A senior police officer is murdered at a bowls match. **10.00** Annika **11.00** Father Brown **12.00m't** So Help Me Todd **1.00** Death in Paradise **2.00** Evil **3.00-4.00am** Far North

SKY MAX

6.00am Hawaii Five-0 **8.00** The Flash **9.00** Stargate SG-1 **11.00** A League of Their Own: The Rally **12.00noon** The Flash **1.00** Hawaii Five-0 **3.05** S.W.A.T **4.10** NCIS: Los Angeles **5.15** A League of Their Own: The Rally **6.15** Stargate SG-1 **8.15** Never Mind the Buzzcocks **9.00** Evil: double bill **11.00** Fear the Walking Dead **12.00m't** The Force: Manchester **2.00** Road Wars **3.00** S.W.A.T **4.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **5.00-6.00am** Highway Patrol

SKY ATLANTIC

6.00am Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets **8.00** Boardwalk Empire **10.10** The Sopranos **12.20pm** Game of Thrones **2.30** The Wire **4.40** Westworld **5.45** Deadwood **6.50** Game of Thrones **9.00** The Last of Us **10.05** A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms. Dunk teaches Egg an important skill. **10.45** Deadwood **11.50** The Sopranos **2.00am** Under Salt Marsh **3.00** Game of Thrones **5.10-6.00am** Fish Town

SKY WITNESS

6.00am Nothing to Declare **8.00** Border Patrol **9.00** Border Security USA **10.00** Border Security: Canada's Front Line **11.00** A1: Britain's Longest Road **12.00noon** FBI **1.00** The Rookie **3.00** Watson **4.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **5.00** Nothing to Declare **7.00** Police 24/7 **8.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **9.00** FBI **10.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit **11.00** The Rookie **12.00m't** FBI **1.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **2.00** The Rookie **3.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **4.00** Road Wars **5.00-6.00am** The Force: Manchester

SKY COMEDY

8.00am Will & Grace **9.00** Ballers **10.15** Sex and the City **11.30** Entourage **12.30pm** Will & Grace **1.30** Sex and the City **2.30** Ballers **3.50** And Just Like That **4.45** The Office (US) **5.45** Will & Grace **6.45** Community **7.45** Sex and the City **9.00** Chris Ramsey: Live from London **10.00** And Just Like That **11.00** Community **12.00m't** Entourage **1.00** Ballers **2.15** Curb Your Enthusiasm **3.40-5.00am** Silicon Valley

DISCOVERY

6.00am How Do They Do It? **7.00** Goblin Works Garage **9.00** Gold Rush: Mine Rescue with Freddy & Juan **11.00** Diesel Brothers **1.00pm** Deadliest Catch **3.00** How It's Made **5.00** The Woodland Workshop **7.00** Wheeler Dealers **9.00** Marooned with Ed Stafford **10.00** In the Eye of the Storm **11.00** Expedition Unknown **12.00m't** Deadliest Catch **1.00** Marooned with Ed Stafford **2.00** In the Eye of the Storm **3.00** Gold Divers **4.00-5.00am** Moonshiners

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

8.00am Border Protection Spain **9.00** Air Crash Investigation **10.00** Seconds from Disaster **11.00** WW2: Hell Under the Sea **12.00noon** Nazi Megastructures: America's War **1.00** Air Crash Investigation **3.00** Secret Nazi Science **4.00** Drain the Oceans **5.00** Ice Road Rescue **6.00** Construction Fails **7.00** Air Crash Investigation **8.00** Toronto Airport Uncovered **9.00** Car S.O.S **11.00** Air Crash Investigation **12.00m't** Alaska: The Next Generation **1.00** To Catch a Smuggler **2.00** Abandoned **2.30** Bid & Destroy **3.20** Food Factory **4.10** Secrets of the Zoo: Keeper Tales **5.00-5.30am** Teleshopping

Radio

BBC RADIO 1

97.6-99.8MHz 6.58am Newsbeat **7.00** Radio 1 Breakfast with Greg James **10.30** Newsbeat **10.33** Rickie, Melvin and Charlie **12.45pm** Newsbeat **1.00** Matt and Mollie **3.00** Radio 1 Pop Anthems **3.30** Newsbeat **3.33** Going Home with Katie and Emil **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Radio 1's New Music Show with Jack Saunders **8.00** Radio 1's Rave-Up with Arielle Free **10.00** BBC Introducing on Radio 1 Dance with Jaguar **11.00** Radio 1's Residency **1.00am** Radio 1's Live Lounge **2.00** Radio 1 Anthems **4.00** Radio 1's Workout Anthems **5.00-6.58am** Early Breakfast with Dean McCullough

BBC RADIO 2

88-91MHz 6.30am Scott Mills **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00noon** Jeremy Vine **2.00** Trevor Nelson **4.00** Sara Cox **6.30** Sara Cox's Half Wower **7.00** Trevor Nelson: 30 Years at the BBC **9.00** The Country Show with Bob Harris **10.00** The Good Groove with DJ Spoony **10.45** Radio 2 Piano Room **11.00** DJ Spoony **12.00m't** Connor Phillips **3.00** Dance Sounds of the 90s with Vernon Kay **4.00-6.30am** Jason Mohammad

BBC RADIO 3

90.2-92.4MHz 6.30am Breakfast **9.30** Essential Classics **1.00pm** Classical Live **4.00** Composer of the Week: Erik Chisholm **5.00** In Tune **7.00** Classical Mixtape **7.30** Radio 3 in Concert **9.45** The Essay: Almost Famous **10.00** Night Tracks **11.30** 'Round Midnight **12.30-6.30am** Through the Night

CHOICE

Drama: Wild Woman Of The North
Radio 4, 2.15pm
Gillian Kearney, Lee Ingleby and Tareq Al-Jeddal star in Esther Wilson's drama. Inspired by a 'Wild Living' Community in Wales, a family moves to the countryside to try a new way of life that is closer to nature. As they are recovering from a family tragedy, will this move heal them or make things worse?

BBC RADIO 4

FM 92.4-94.6MHz 6.00am Today **9.00** In Our Time **9.45** Strong Message Here **10.00** Woman's Hour **11.00** This Cultural Life **11.45** Book of the Week: Constable's Year **12.00noon** News **12.04** The Bottom Line **12.30** Sliced Bread **12.57** Weather **1.00** The World at One **1.45** Sanctuary: An Act of Defiance **2.00** The Archers **2.15** Drama: Wild Woman of the North **3.00** Ramblings **3.27** Radio 4 Appeal **3.30** Word of Mouth **4.00** Rethink **4.30** BBC Inside Science **5.00** PM **5.57** Weather **6.00** News **6.30** Finlay Christie Is Younger Than You **7.00** The Archers **7.15** Front Row **8.00** When It Hits the Fan **8.15** The Media Show **9.00** Loose Ends **9.45** Strong Message Here **10.00** The World Tonight **10.45** Book at Bedtime: The White Lady of Morecambe **11.00** Radical with Amol Rajan **11.30** Today in Parliament **12.00m't** News **12.30** Book of the Week: Constable's Year **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.00** As BBC World Service **5.00** News **5.04** Yesterday in Parliament **5.32** Weather **5.34** Shipping Forecast **5.43** Prayer for the Day **5.45-6.00am** Farming Today

BBC RADIO 5 LIVE

693/909kHz 6.00am 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Gordon Smart **11.00** Adrian Chiles **2.00pm** Matt Chorley **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport **8.10** 5 Live Rugby. France v Ireland. **10.15** Tony Livesey **1.00am** Laura McGhie **5.00-6.00am** Wake Up to Money

BBC RADIO WALES

FM: 94.6MHz 6.00am News Update **6.05** Wake Up with Radio Wales **6.31** Country Focus **7.00** Radio Wales Breakfast **9.00** Bronwen Lewis **11.59** The Phone In **2.00pm** Justine Jones **5.00** Radio Wales Drive **6.30** The Abergele Files **7.00** Aleighcia Scott **10.00** Eleri Sion **12.00m't** Relax with Radio Wales **1.00-6.00am** As Radio 5 Live

CLASSIC FM

100-102MHz 6.30am Breakfast with Dan Walker **9.00** The Classic FM Hall of Fame Hour **10.00** Alexander Armstrong **1.00pm** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Relaxing Evenings with Zeb Soanes **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00-6.30am** Early Breakfast

ABSOLUTE RADIO

DAB 6.00am Dave Berry **10.00** Leona Graham **1.00pm** Ben Burrell **4.00** Bush and Richie **7.00** Danielle Perry **10.00** Jay Lawrence **1.00-6.00am** Dan Noble

Movies

FILM4

11.00am Local Hero (1983/PG) Comedy drama, starring Peter Riegert, Burt Lancaster, Denis Lawson and Peter Capaldi. ★★★★ **1.15pm Hail the Conquering Hero** (1944/U) Comedy, with Eddie Bracken. ★★★★★ **3.20 Gun Fury** (1953/U) Western, starring Rock Hudson and Donna Reed. ★★★ **5.00 Jason and the Argonauts** (1963/U) Mythological fantasy adventure, with Todd Armstrong and Nancy Kovack. ★★★★★ **7.10 Moon** (2009/15) Sci-fi drama, starring Sam Rockwell and Kevin Spacey. ★★★★ **9.00 The Pope's Exorcist** (2023/15) Horror, starring Russell Crowe. ★★★ **11.10 S.W.A.T** (2003/12) Action thriller, starring Samuel L Jackson and Colin Farrell. ★★★★ **1.30-3.40am xXx: The Next Level** (2005/12) Action sequel, starring Ice Cube. ★★★

SKY CINEMA PREMIERE

7.05am Cookster: The Darkest Days (2024/15) Drama, with Craige Middleburg. ★★★ **9.15 The Ballad of Wallis Island** (2025/12) Comedy drama, starring Tim Key. ★★★★★ **11.00 The Naked Gun** (2025/15) See 8.00pm. ★★★★ **12.40pm Smurfs** (2025/PG) See 6.20pm. ★★★ **2.20 Nuremberg** (2025/15) See 1.25am. ★★★★ **4.50 Super Charlie** (2024/PG) Family animation, with the voice of Alex Kelly. ★★★ **6.20 Smurfs** (2025/PG) Fantasy comedy, featuring the voice of Rihanna. ★★★ **8.00 The Naked Gun** (2025/15) Comedy reboot, starring Liam Neeson. ★★★★ **9.35 Prisoner of War** (2025/15) Action thriller, with Scott Adkins and Peter Shinkoda. ★★★ **11.35 The Cut** (2024/12) Sports thriller, starring Orlando Bloom and John Turturro. ★★★★ **1.25am Nuremberg** (2025/15) Thriller, starring Russell Crowe and Rami Malek. ★★★★ **3.55 Beast of War** (2025/15) Thriller, starring Mark Coles Smith and Joel Nankervis. ★★ **5.30-7.10am Borderline** (2025/15) Dark comedy horror, with Samara Weaving. ★★★

SKY CINEMA DRAMA

4.25pm Peggy Sue Got Married (1986/15) Comedy, with Kathleen Turner. ★★★ **6.15 About a Boy** (2002/12) Comedy, with Hugh Grant and Toni Collette. ★★★★ **8.00 Joker: Folie a Deux** (2024/15) Musical thriller, starring Joaquin Phoenix. ★★ **10.20 Anora** (2024/18) Comedy, with Mikey Madison and Paul Weissman. ★★★★ **12.40am Jackie** (2016/15) Drama, with Natalie Portman and Peter Sarsgaard. ★★★★ **2.30 Poison** (2024/PG) Drama, with Tim Roth and Trine Dyrholm. ★★★ **4.15 Quartet** (2012/12) Comedy, with Maggie Smith and Billy Connolly. ★★★★ **5.55-7.50am Peggy Sue Got Married** (1986/15) See 4.25pm. ★★★

SKY CINEMA FAMILY

4.05pm The Smurfs (2011/U) Fantasy comedy, starring Neil Patrick Harris. ★★★ **6.00 A Minecraft Movie** (2025/PG) Fantasy adventure, starring Jason Momoa. ★★★★ **7.50 The Karate Kid Part II** (1986/PG) Martial arts sequel, starring Ralph Macchio. ★★★★ **9.50 The Karate Kid Part III** (1989/PG) Adventure sequel, with Ralph Macchio. ★★ **11.50 Robin and the Hoods** (2024/PG) Comedy, starring Naomie Harris. ★★★ **1.40am The Tiger Rising** (2022/PG) Family drama, starring Dennis Quaid. ★★★ **3.30 Ride On** (2023/PG) Action drama, starring Jackie Chan and Liu Haocun. ★★★★ **5.40-7.30am It Takes Two** (1996/U) Children's comedy, starring Kirstie Alley. ★★

TALKING PICTURES TV

4.30pm Rebecca Two-part dramatisation of the Daphne du Maurier novel, with Emilia Fox. **6.30 Blue Pullman** Diesel train documentary. **6.55 The Brothers** Richard Easton stars. **8.00 Mark Saber** Detective drama. **8.30 The Wheeltappers and Shunters Social Club** Featuring In Three Minds. **9.20 The Bargee** (1964/PG) Comedy, with Harry H Corbett and Ronnie Barker. ★★ **11.30pm A Month of Sundays** (1989/PG) Comedy drama, with Hume Cronyn. ★★★ **1.30am Crown Court** Three episodes. **3.00am Planespotting** Fact-based drama. **5.00-6.00am Burke's Law** Detective series.

GREAT! MYSTERY

4.00pm Murder, She Wrote Double bill. **6.00 Sue Thomas: FBEye** Crime drama. **7.00 Castle** American crime drama. **8.00 Unforgettable** Crime drama series. **9.00 Picture Perfect Mysteries: Dead Over Diamonds** (2020/PG) Crime drama, starring Alexa PenaVega and Carlos PenaVega. ★★★ **10.55 Lost Letter Mysteries: Freedom to Give** (2014/PG) Mystery, starring Eric Mabius. ★★ **12.50am No Surrender** (2011/PG) Thriller, with Mena Suvari and Stephanie Bauder. ★★★ **2.35 The Wedding Stalker** (2017/PG) Thriller, with Heather Morris and Fiona Vroom. ★★★ **4.00-6.00am Sue Thomas: FBEye**

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JUNE 2026

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Sun 14 *Relaxing at Sea*

Mon 15 **Copenhagen, Denmark**

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Tue 16 **Berlin (from Warnemünde), Germany**

Wed 17 *Relaxing at sea*

Thu 18 **Tallinn, Estonia**

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Fri 19 - Sat 20 **Stockholm, Sweden** (overnight)

Sun 21 *Relaxing at sea*

Mon 22 - Tue 23 **Kristiansand, Norway** (arrive early pm - overnight)

Wed 24 *Relaxing at sea*

Thu 25 **Bruges (from Zeebrugge), Belgium**

Fri 26 **Arrive in Southampton**

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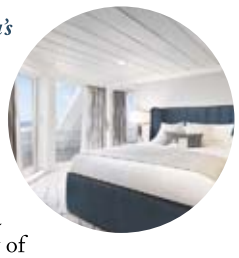

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Letters

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Did Labour turn a deaf ear to Mandy rumours?

I FIND it unbelievable with the scandal of how the Labour Party, did it continually turn a blind eye to Peter Mandelson's behaviour ("Police probe Mandelson over 'leak of official information to Epstein'", February 4)?

And Labour now wants to bring back Angela Rayner. The two-handed freebie taker, who was embroiled in a tax scandal last year.

Labour then says it wants to bring respect, honesty, integrity and openness back to the tainted image of Britain's politicians.

Peter Morgan,
Shrewsbury, Salop

Mystery why 'Prince of Darkness' was ennobled

WHAT a shambles. Treason is perhaps a step too far, but treachery there certainly is. Rushed-through legislation to remove Lord Mandelson's peerage is a welcome move and hopefully a few more shady peers should also be stripped of their peerages.

But why was he ever ennobled? Everyone knew how tricky he was, from passports to aluminium from Russia to China, and why ambassador to the US?

Syd Vaughan,
Birmingham

Justice at last, now strip Lord of massive pension

FOR the millions of us who recognised the loathsome Lord Mandelson as a master dissembler 30 years ago, it has been infuriating to witness his cockroach-like ability to resist extinction.

Eternal shame on him and on all those in the Labour Party who have allowed him to plunder public purses and private wallets again and again. We can kiss goodbye to all his ill-gotten gains but surely we can now deprive him of his totally undeserved but doubtless astronomical pension?

Rob Schofield,
Hyde, Cheshire

Blair has got questions to answer over his old pal

WHY is not been mentioned that Tony Blair appointed Peter Mandelson a number of times to jobs after he left Hartlepool as an MP?

And did Blair have anything to do in getting him this final job as US ambassador with his mate PM Keir Starmer?

Sylvia Rylance,
Cleadon, Tyne and Wear

Some royals are not shy of trading on their name

I CAN understand why Prince Edward reacted so awkwardly when asked about his brother's association with Epstein ("Edward's comments come as Andrew appears 2,000 times in latest files", February 4). Like Prince Andrew and Fergie, and Prince Harry and Meghan, Edward and Sophie have not been above peddling their royal connections for cash.

Roy Daniels,
Kingsclere, Hants

LETTER OF THE DAY

TIME'S UP: Keir Starmer with Peter Mandelson

Starmer must quit, just like Mandelson

TALK about the pot calling the kettle black. Keir Starmer's latest accusation is laughable, he states Peter Mandelson has "let his country down" ("Labour's devotion to 'Prince of Darkness' lays bare its failings", February 4).

Surely Starmer must have known about Mandelson's past, or did he choose to ignore it? If he was not made aware of it, the people who kept it from him should be removed.

Who welcomes migrant criminals into our country and puts them above our people? Who has let the Chinese build their mega spy embassy in London? Who is trying to defy the votes of millions and get us back into the disastrous EU again? At least Mandelson had the decency to resign. Think about it, Keir.

Donald Wiseman,
Norwich

Where are tears for UK's grooming gang victims?

("TIME Andrew told all for sake of Epstein's victims", February 4). What about the thousands of white girls, victims of paedophile rape gangs in this country? Rupert Lowe's independent crowd-funded inquiry has started, but Keir Starmer continues to drag his feet.

Dr Peter Outen,
Brentwood, Essex

Soon-to-be ex-MPs are lining up next job in EU

IT IS patently obvious why ("Labour cosying up to EU bosses", February 3). Apart from a determination to defy the wishes of the majority of the electorate by unpicking Brexit, they are all acutely aware that after the next general election they will all be out of a job, unless they postpone the general election like they have postponed the council elections.

Peter Beckley,
Crawley, W Sussex

Real hard work to start after local election wins

ANY party which wins control of a council in May is likely to be handed a poisoned chalice of chaos and near bankruptcy. In that case the incoming group can start to rescue the situation but it will take a lot more than five minutes to improve it.

Voters might as well take that on board now. No point moaning about it afterwards. If you had a serious operation you would not feel great the day after.

It is different with Keir Starmer's outfit. All they have done is cause a massive amount of extra damage as they have not got a clue.

Duncan Hartley,
Solihull, W Mids

Facial recognition useless if criminals wear a mask

YOUR article highlights the sheer stupidity and folly of this government's fascination with cameras and high-tech facial recognition systems.

What good is facial recognition when all the thieves have to do is just cover their faces ("Tesco announces major change in 40 UK stores in crime crackdown", January 27)?

Surely the only answer is more bobbies on the beat. I shudder to think about how bad this country is going to get before someone in authority wakes up to the problem.

Bob Milton,
Newcastle upon Tyne

It's time to eye up regular tests for every motorist

SURELY the simple answer is to legislate for all drivers to submit an eye test result with all licences or renewal applications and every two-to-five years for those over retirement age ("'We may sue over eye test rule for over-70s'", February 2).

Good eyesight is the one thing that is needed for safe driving. Even the young can have poor eyesight that goes undetected for years.

Today mobile phones are the No.1 distraction, especially with the younger drivers under 50. I'm over 70 and welcome such control.

John Fox,
St Brelade, Jersey

Starter for 10 - how great was Bamber Gascoigne?

WEEK after week, I look forward to testing my knowledge on a variety of subjects on University Challenge. Unfortunately the current presenter, Amol Rajan, dampens my enthusiasm with his rather abrupt comments when the contestants happen to give a wrong answer. I pine for the days of Bamber Gascoigne.

Michael Garrett,
Rotherham, S Yorks

PENSION RAISE OF 25P A WEEK BURNS HOLE IN OAP'S POCKET

MY PARTNER has just received a letter saying she will receive an increase in her state pension of, wait for it, 25p per week taxable.

This is for someone who has worked and paid all her dues, unlike many of those living on benefits.

This government can find thousands a month for those who choose a career of benefits, bringing children into the world with no thought on how to support them.

It is financing illegal migration with an endless budget, yet reject any calls to help Britain's pensioners.

Michael Redwood,
Bristol

TODAY: Thursday February 5, 2026

ON THIS DAY

DAILY EXPRESS
PEACE HOPES GO CRASHING
Come in out of the rain

52 years ago (1974)
We revealed details of the "coach bomb horror" on the M62 motorway which killed 12 people, including two children.

The bus was taking off-duty British Army personnel and their families from Manchester to their base in Catterick, North Yorkshire when an IRA device exploded in the luggage locker. The attack remains one of the deadliest mainland acts of the Troubles.

73 years ago (1953)
Labour's Food Minister Gwilym Lloyd-George ended sweet rationing after 11 years.

Lloyd-George also took eggs, cream, butter, cheese and margarine off the nation's ration books.

Rationing was introduced in 1940 to help Britain survive the Second World War and didn't end fully until 1954.

58 years ago (1968)
Hull trawler the Ross Cleveland sank off the coast of north-west Iceland in a Force 12 gale with the loss of 18 of the 19 crew.
Miraculously the ship's mate Harry Eddon, 35, was washed ashore and found his way to safety. It was the third fishing boat to have sunk in three weeks, with 60 lives lost.

BIRTHDAYS

Football icon **Cristiano Ronaldo** is 41. His net worth is £1billion. TV presenter **Alison Hammond** is 51. She competed on Big Brother in 2002. Love Actually star **Laura Linney** is 62. She has won two Golden Globes. Single White Female star **Jennifer Jason Leigh** is 64. She works behind the camera.

TODAY'S GIGGLE
I should do lunges to stay in shape. That would be a big step forward.

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“A quality firepit that is easy to assemble (just 3 bolts). Unlike others we’ve had in the past this one is made with thick gauge steel and also has drain holes in the bottom of the bowl.”
★★★★★
Redbul_1

Turn your garden or patio into a calm gathering place with the Nicoman pre-rusted Corten steel firepit, designed to offer both dependable warmth and lasting visual appeal. Its generous 91cm round fire bowl sits on a strong 50cm base, giving you a stable and spacious setting for wood or charcoal fires during cool evenings outdoors. The clever slot design in the base supports steady airflow, helping flames burn more cleanly and reducing unwanted smoke for a more comfortable experience. Over time, the natural rust patina forms a protective layer on the steel, removing the need for paint or coatings and keeping care to a minimum. With a height of 31cm and a solid, heavy build, this firepit becomes a reliable focal point for garden parties, family gatherings or peaceful moments under the night sky, where soft light and gentle heat create a relaxing atmosphere for reading, talking or simply enjoying the fresh air in your outdoor space throughout spring, summer, autumn and winter months at your own home each year with very little effort or ongoing maintenance needed from you.

- ✓ Quick and easy setup
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- ✓ Made from high-quality corten steel
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MICHAEL SHEEN
Born this day, 1969

ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 20

Your friends, workmates and loved ones will not understand your way of thinking. Theirs is a very different perspective from yours but that's fine as long as you keep in mind everyone has a right to their own opinion, as do you. So try not to get too upset or irritable about it. Save your energy for matters that truly deserve it.

For more call **0905 789 4171**
(80p/min + network access charge)

TAURUS APRIL 21-MAY 21

Don't be disheartened if someone seems moody. Since words are their only weapon, your best strategy would be to ignore them. Regardless of their intentions, they are the one with the problem and you have more important matters to consider. There's an opportunity for advancement and that's where you should be directing your attention.

For more call **0905 789 4172**
(80p/min + network access charge)

GEMINI MAY 22-JUNE 21

An unexpected opportunity to travel is coming your way. You might also be offered a chance to enrol in a training course, pursue further education or make progress in fields like medicine, the media, publishing or the law. As you navigate these possibilities, allow your curiosity to guide you and embrace the excitement that lies ahead.

For more call **0905 789 4173**
(80p/min + network access charge)

CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 23

Surprises are likely in the workplace. Your usual schedule will be disrupted and this could turn out to be a good thing. Changes will involve technology. Meetings will be rescheduled with new team members joining in. Updates regarding a current project will surprise everyone, perhaps igniting fresh inspiration and creativity within the team.

For more call **0905 789 4174**
(80p/min + network access charge)

LEO JULY 24-AUG 23

Even though it has never been agreed and there have not been proper consultations, people are starting to get punished for certain behaviour or the words they use. You have done nothing wrong and you're feeling annoyed by the way those at the top are abusing their control. Trust your instincts, your sense of injustice is a powerful guide.

For more call **0905 789 4175**
(80p/min + network access charge)

VIRGO AUG 24-SEPT 23

Your boss will act in ways that seem unusual for them. You will find it hard to hide the fact that you have noticed their abrupt change in mood. Something inspires you to consider a complete change in direction. There's a surprise coming your way and you can feel it, whispering possibilities that could reshape your path beautifully.

For more call **0905 789 4176**
(80p/min + network access charge)

LIBRA SEPT 24-OCT 23

Gifts, treats and favours others want to do for you make you realise how much you mean to your friends. People want you to know how important you are in their life. If an offer has to do with money, act fast as this chance could pass you by. The warmth of these connections serve as a reminder support is abundant when shared with those you cherish.

For more call **0905 789 4177**
(80p/min + network access charge)

SCORPIO OCT 24-NOV 22

People around you, especially those who know you well, will encourage you to reflect on and reassess your hopes for the future. A partner, in business or romance, will share what they are thinking or you could learn something through a conversation. Working with a younger colleague might give you something to think about.

For more call **0905 789 4178**
(80p/min + network access charge)

SAGITTARIUS NOV 23-DEC 21

Communications with others will be open and effective. You understand what people are saying without them having to explain. This makes it easier for conversations to flow. Thoughtful planning will pay off. Choose jobs that require careful attention as you will have the patience to handle them today. You won't shy away from any challenges.

For more call **0905 789 4179**
(80p/min + network access charge)

CAPRICORN DEC 22-JAN 20

Whatever actions you take to make money today, they are likely to succeed. You are preparing in advance, ensuring that when you act, you will be fully aware of your steps. This same thoughtfulness will also extend to how you spend money. You might notice too that no one is acting impulsively. Instead, there's a palpable sense of purpose in the air.

For more call **0905 789 4180**
(80p/min + network access charge)

AQUARIUS JAN 21-FEB 19

You can achieve a lot today since whatever you do will give you value for the effort you put into it. This is due to your focused approach and consistent energy. You have the patience and persistence needed to get results. Even though you aren't expecting wonders and you will be satisfied with modest outcomes, there's joy in these small victories.

For more call **0905 789 4181**
(80p/min + network access charge)

PISCES FEB 20-MARCH 20

Your imagination knows no bounds. Creative inspiration flows and you will find contentment through the arts, entertainment, sports and enjoying fun activities with children. Expect to be in demand if you work in the hospitality industry. Are you single? A romantic connection with someone younger is on the cards. Embrace the joy of spontaneity.

For more call **0905 789 4182**
(80p/min + network access charge)

Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge – maximum of 5 minutes duration. You must be over 18 and have the bill payer's permission. Service provider Spoke. Helpline 0333 202 3390

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RUPERT AND THE PENGUINS No.33

"Now, take that play ball! When I start Filming, you must play your part!"

Cries Rupert, "I've so much to tell! We'll all be in the film as well!?"

Captain Chubb hands Rupert a big play ball. "I want you to help me," he says. "First of all, ask the penguins to dive into the pool, then throw this ball to them. I'll be filming them all the time. It should make a very good scene." The little bear is only too ready to help and dashes to tell Podgy and Rosalie the news. The two cousins are thrilled. "A film! Oh we simply must watch that!" exclaims Podgy.

CALVIN AND HOBBES BILL WATTERSON

THERE'S SUSIE! HEH HEH! WATCH ME KNOCK HER FILLINGS LOOSE!
YAAA!
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YOU KNOW, I THOUGHT EARTH'S GRAVITY FELT EXCEPTIONALLY STRONG TODAY.
I GUESS THAT EXPLAINS HOW YOU SPILLED YOUR PORRIDGE ON THE FLOOR THIS MORNING

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AT A GLANCE

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FTSE 250	23333.2	▲	+42.8
FTSE ALL SHARE	5598.5	▲	+42.8
Shares Traded	12726.4 million		

POPULAR SHARES ON THE RISE		
Abrdn	218¾	+1
Aviva	654½	+7½
BP	477¾	+11¼
BT Group	205	+11
Centrica	193¼	+1½
Convatec Group	225½	+2¼
GSK	2080	+134½
Haleon	395	+10½
HSBC Holdings	1307½	+6½
Marks & Spencer Group	391¼	+16
National Grid	1278	+22
Sainsbury (J)	335¼	+9¼
Shell	2867	+77½
Tesco	450½	+15
Unilever	5178	+133
Vodafone Group	114¼	+3
Whitbread	2769	+80

POPULAR SHARES ON THE SLIDE		
AstraZeneca	13796	-20
BAE Systems	1874½	-57
Barclays	483¼	-18¼
Int Consolidated Airlines	432	-1
Lloyds Banking Group	112	-½
NatWest Group	691½	-2½
Rolls-Royce Holdings	1217½	-18
Saga	572	-6

WORLD MARKETS			
WALL STREET	49,501.3	▲	+260.3
TOKYO	54293.4	▼	-427.3
HONG KONG	26847.3	▲	+12.6
GERMANY	24603.0	▼	-177.7
FRANCE	8262.2	▲	+82.7

STERLING VALUE			
Dollar	1.366	▼	-0.004
Yen	213.904	▲	+0.517
Euro	1.157	▼	-0.002

DOLLAR VALUE		
Dollar/Yen	156.619	▲ +0.8610
Dollar/Euro	0.847	▲ +0.0014

COMMODITIES	
GOLD($)	▼ 4929.46
KRUGERRAND(£)	▲ 3603.21
SILVER(pence)	▲ 6312.20
BRENT CRUDE($)	▲ 67.56

OTHER INDICATORS	
Base rate	3.75%
Halifax mortgage rate	5.95%
Retail Price Index	+4.2% (CPI +3.4%)
House price Index	+2.5%
Unemployment	1,840,000

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Hungary	414.21 forint
Israel	3.97 shekel
Japan	205.82 yen
Jordan	0.91 dinar
Mexico	22.36 peso
New Zealand	2.21 dollar
Norway	12.75 krone
Poland	4.66 zloty
Saudi Arabia	4.90 riyal
South Africa	20.96 rand
Sweden	11.61 krona
Switzerland	1.03 franc
Thailand	41.52 baht
Turkey	55.46 lira
United States	1.35 dollar

'Post-Budget clarity' drives rebound in services sector

By **Anna Wise**

THE services sector is bouncing back from crippling pre-Budget fears with activity at a five-month high, according to bosses.

Leaders across hospitality, entertainment, culture, finance, insurance, real estate and business services reported greater consumer confidence, new projects starting and more willingness to spend.

Tim Moore says demand is muted

But the optimism comes after the sector faced the longest period of job cutting in 16 years. The findings emerged in the S&P Global UK services PMI survey. It scored 54.0 in January, up from 51.4 in December, after quizzing hundreds of companies.

Any reading above 50.0 means growth – and last month's result shows the fastest period of expansion since August.

However, many firms still reported that fragile demand and geopolitical uncertainty held them back.

Tim Moore, of S&P, said: "A number of firms suggested that post-Budget clarity had contributed to a broader improvement in client confidence, while some also cited rising export sales.

"Despite a recovery in total new work, service providers still reported that consumer demand was constrained by squeezed disposable incomes, while risk aversion in response to geopolitical tensions was a factor holding back business spending." The survey also revealed that employment numbers within the sector have been shrinking since October 2024 and were shed at a faster rate in January than a month earlier.

Cost cutting and increased use of automation were given as reasons.

Separate figures from think-tank the National Institute of Economic and Social Research showed that lower-paid industries such as hospitality and food chains were most exposed to rising labour costs, leading to fewer hirings.

Thomas Pugh, of RSM UK consultants, predicted the rebound will play into today's Bank of England decision on interest rates.

He believes it "will wait until April before cutting interest rates again. Ultimately, growth this year largely depends on consumers' willingness to get out and spend". The Bank is tipped to keep interest rates unchanged at 3.75%.

SANTANDER PUMPS UP MIS-SELLING FUND

PROFITS at Santander UK have jumped 14% despite the banking giant ploughing another £183million into its motor finance mis-selling fund and bosses warning of cost cuts in the year ahead.

The Spanish lender saw pre-tax profits hit £1.51billion in 2025.

It already set aside £295m for the car loans scandal in 2024 to prepare for the Financial Conduct Authority's redress scheme.

Bosses cautioned "there continue to be significant uncertainties as to the nature, extent and timing of redress payments. The ultimate financial impact could be materially higher or lower."

Santander has already revealed plans to shut another 44 branches, putting nearly 300 jobs at risk. It expects more cuts in 2026 "driven by simplification and automation of our business".

Many firms face uncertainty

Labour taking toll on long-term staffing plans

BUSINESSES are seeing political change and regulatory uncertainty as a barrier to long-term workforce planning, making it harder for leaders to implement effective strategies.

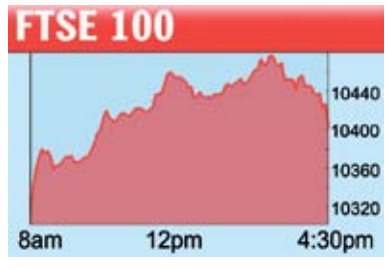
Nearly 80% of companies are now unable to look beyond a 12-month horizon, according to a survey of nearly 700 employers by law firm Lewis Silkin. The firm's Lucy Lewis said: "Economic pressures, and political and regulatory change narrow the planning window even further."

Preparing for and complying with the government's Employment Rights Bill is a top challenge for 25% of organisations, as the overhaul in workers' rights is bound to increase costs. Lewis Silkin predicted "cautious hiring" over the next 12–24 months.

Most companies expect to face "cultural" hurdles as they invest in more new technology, with staff experiencing a fear of job losses or mistrust of AI.

++ THE FTSE 100 THE FTSE 100 THE FTSE 100 ++

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
3i Group	3357	+108	4459	2999
A.B. Foods	1931	+57½	2337	1838
Admiral Group	†			
Airtel Africa	324½	+½	372¾	135½
Alliance Trust	1254	-2	1322	1050
Anglo American	3560	-140	3754	2003¾
Antofagasta	3627	-241	3908	1383
Ashtead Group	5014#	+208	5594	3659
AstraZeneca	13796	-20	14346	9667
Auto Trader	498	-8¼	908½	492
Aviva	654½	+7½	692½	493
Babcock International	1423	-45	1502	542½
BAE Systems	1874½	-57	2093	1180½
Barclays	483¼	-18¼	506½	241¾
Barratt Development	400	+5¾	482¼	350
Beazley Group	1240	+80	1270	769
Berkeley Grp Hldgs	4318	+154	4400¾	3524
BP	477¾	+11¼	481¼	331¾
British Amer.Tob	4494#	-12	4574	2965
British Land	424½	+6½	432	321¼
BT Group	205#	+11	222¾	141¾
Bunzl	2144	+94	3442	1989
Burberry Group	1111½	+38½	1371½	627¾
Centrica	193¼	+1½	196¾	135¼
Coca-Cola HBC	4230	+162	4230	2894
Compass Group	2222#	+58	2843	2164
Convatec Group	225½	+2¼	295½	221
CRH	8942	-278	9704	6142
Croda International	2862	+149	3311	2465
DCC	5010	+370	5495	4350
Diageo	1774	+77	2327½	1577
Diploma	5370	+45	5685	3624
EasyJet	495¾	+5¼	587¾	427½
Entain	648	+61½	1022	501¼
Experian Group	2546#	-9	4088	2493
F&C Inv Tst	1254	+7	1272	962
Flutter Entert.	11605	+250	23630	11037½
Fresnillo	3776	-126	4448	713½
Games Workshop	17010	+240	19840	12410
GlaxoSmithKline	2080	+134½	2111½	1264
Glencore	511¼	-6	531	230
Haleon	395	+10½	415¼	326½
Halma	3502	-44	3710	2360
Hikma	1632	+78	2340	1507
Hiscox	1539	+56	1555	1035
HSBC Holdings	1307½	+6½	1320½	713¼
IMI	2824	-2	2862	1606
Imperial Brands	3260	+99	3312	2667
Informa	835¾	+¼	993½	640¼
InterContinental Htl	10443½	-3171½	10498½	5441
Intermediate Cap.Grp	1696	+40	2450	1569
Intertek Group	4466	+80	5385	4064
Intl Consolidated Airlines	432	-1	437	224½
JD Sports	83¼	+1	104½	63¼
Kingfisher	348	+10	354¼	240¼
Land Securities	675	+23	678½	499½
Legal & General	272	+3	275½	215¼
Lloyds Banking Grp	112	-½	114½	61½
London & Stamford Prop	202½	+2½	204½	170½
London Stock Ex	7170	-10	12095	6684
M&G	310	-2½	315	172¾
Marks & Spencer	391¼	+16	411¼	318½
Melrose	616¾	-1	680	386
Mondi	890½	+33¼	1326	819
National Grid	1278	+22	1301	919¾
NatWest Group	691½	-2½	705½	411¼
Next	12965	+165	14580	9584
Pearson	897½	+3	1379	875
Pershing Square Hold	4540	+64	5090	3244
Persimmon	1462	+15	1486½	1037½
Phoenix Group	754½	+3	768	499¼
Prudential	1215½	-4½	1238	655
Reckitt Benckiser	6274#	+147	6218	7½ 6102
RELX	2185	-29	4135	2114¾
Rentokil Initial	462¾	+¾	480¾	309½
Rightmove	450½	-18½	823¾	436¾
Rio Tinto	7005	-33	7228	4117
Rolls-Royce Group	1217½	-18	1305	593½
Sage Group	845½#	-25½	1340½	832½
Sainsbury (J)	335¼	+9¼	355¾	228¾
Schroders	461¼	+3	467	289¼
Scottish Mortgage	1226	-24	1267	815¼
SEGRO	776¼	+14¼	777¼	599
Severn Trent	3004	+61	3052	2370
Shell	2867	+77½	2931½	2291½
Smith & Nephew	1278½	+28½	1435	937¾
Smiths Group	2542	-8	2638	1687
Smurfit Kappa	3186	+156	4454	2558
Spirax-Sarco	7380	+95	7940	5445
SSE	2495	+60	2538	1463½
St James's Place	1516½	-36½	1555	791
Standard Chartered	1857	-22	1910	878¾
Tesco	450½	+15	475½	314½
Unilever	5178	+133	6177½	4631
United Utilities	1286½	+28½	1300	944½
Vodafone Group	114¼#	+3	116½	64
Weir Group	3342	-12	3400	1984
Whitbread	2769	+80	3274	2335



Zurich returns to scoop up UK rival

SWISS insurance giant Zurich has struck an £8billion deal in principle to buy UK rival Beazley.

Zurich said it will pay 1,310p in cash per share for the London-listed specialist insurer, with shareholders also set to receive a 25p dividend.

The deal comes only two weeks after Beazley rebuffed a £7bn takeover approach by Zurich.

Beazley said the board would "be minded to recommend it" to shareholders should a firm intention to make an offer be announced.

The deal represents an almost 60% premium on Beazley's closing share price before Zurich's takeover approach became public.

Zurich has more than 63,000 employees and is headquartered in the Swiss city. Beazley has around 2,500 and is a specialist insurer, with a growing cyber-cover offering.

+ BG + Barclays + BT + Centrica + Dixons Carphone + First Group + HSBC + Kingfisher + Marks & Spencer + Next + Prudential + Rolls-Royce + Sainsburys + Tesco + Unilever + Vodafone + Whitbread + WPP

SHARES AT A GLANCE

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Aerospace & Defence				
Avon Rubber	1696	-32	2180	1338
Babcock International	1423	-45	1502	542½
BAE Systems	1874½	-57	2093	1180½
Chemring Group	495½	-12½	593	297½
QinetiQ Group	481½#	-12¾	572	361
Rolls-Royce Group	1217½	-18	1305	593½
Senior	242½	-5	253	115¾
Alternative Energy				
Porvair	864	-8	900	626
Banks				
Barclays	483¼	-18¼	506½	241¾
Bco Santander	930	-32	962	421½
Close Brothers	514	+9	550½	266½
HSBC Holdings	1307½	+6½	1320½	713¼
Investec	621	+6	627	414
Lloyds Banking Grp	112	-½	114½	61½
Metro Bank	133½	-1¾	136¼	81
NatWest Group	691½	-2½	705½	411¼
Paragon Group	917	+19	970	686½
Standard Chartered	1857	-22	1910	878¾
Beverages				
Barr (AG)	678	-9	711	593
Coca-Cola HBC	4230	+162	4230	2894
Diageo	1774	+77	2327½	1577
Chemicals				
Carclo	53		80	21
Croda International	2862	+149	3311	2465
Elementis	167¼	+3¼	176½	115
Johnson Matthey	2372	-8	2434	1156
Synthomer	57	+4¼	154¾	46
Treatt	206	+1	444	186½
Victrex	703#	+37	1048	589
Construction & Materials				
Balfour Beatty	724½	-5½	742	390½
Costain Group	179½	-1½	182¾	94
CRH	8942	-278	9704	6142
Dialight	333	+7	364	101
Galliford Try	530	-3	546	321
Gleeson (MJ)	384	-6	538	320
Keller Group	1854	+32	1870	1240
Kier Group	230	+4	231½	115¼
Marshalls	166½	+6½	293	156½
Morgan Sindall	4990	+10	5100	2945
Severfield-Rowen	28¾	-½	52¼	19
Smart (J) & Co	132½		132½	110
Electricity				
Drax Group	896½	-10	918	536½
SSE	2495	+60	2538	1463½
Telecom Plus	1376	+50	2085	1324
Electronic & Electrical Equipment				
Acal	621	-3	738	486
Halma	3502	-44	3710	2360
Oxford Instruments	2485	+15	2540	1500
Renishaw	3675	-20	3875	2145
TT Electronics	122¾	+3¾	154	73
XP Power	1336	+16	1362	621
Equity Investment Instruments				
Aberdeen Asian Sml	390	-1	395	256
Aberforth Smll.Co.	1704	+14	1711	1212
Acorn Income				
Albion Tech.& Gen. VCT	66		71	65½
Alliance Trust	1254	-2	1322	1050
Aurora Inv.Tst.	278	+6	279	212½
AVI Global Tst	259	-1	266½	202
Baillie Gifford Japan	896	+1	951	657
Baillie Gifford Shin Nip	135½		138½	95½
Bankers Inv.Tst	132#	-¼	136	101
Baronsmead VCT.2	48½		52	46½
BH Macro GBP	422½	+1½	423½	371½
Biotech Growth Trust	1220	-30	1285	620
BlackRock Mining	920	-14	1022	406½
Bluehone AiM VCT2	28¼		31	27¼
British Assets Tst	27½	-¼	49¼	26¼
Brunner Inv.Tst.	1464	+14	1490	1140
Caledonia Inv.	366	+1½	391½	334½
City Natural Res.Yld	382	-7	435	165¾
City Of London	562#	+9	565	411½
Dunedin Ent.IT.				
Dunedin Income	310	+2	312	262
Edin Wwide Inv	229½	+2	231	143
Edin.Inv.Tst.	805#	+10	839	680
Edin.US Tracker	385½	-1½	390	289½
Elderstreet VCT	38¼		41	36½
F&C Cap&Inc.	359	+9	360	287
F&C Inv Tst	1254	+7	1272	962
F&C Smaller Cos	183¼	+1¼	184¾	136½
F&C US Smaller Companies	1375		1480	1115
Fidelity Asian	624	-2	630	454
Fidelity European	431½	+5	434	338½
Fidelity Special	451	+6	453	295½
Finsbury Gwth&In	729	-2	961	715
Foresight Tech.VCT	64	-1½	75½	62
Genesis E.M.F.	1206	+18	1212	632
Graphite Ent	1488	-42	1600	1070
Hansa Tst 'A'	274	-2	278	190
Hansa Tst Plc	280	+1	282	192½
Henderson Far Est	244½#	-2	256	190½
Henderson High Inc	201	+5	202	151
Herald Inv.Tst.	2490	-25	2640	1738
HGCapital Tst.	380	-25	538	365½
HSBC Infrastructure	119	+1½	125¼	106
Impax Env.Mkt	414½	+6½	431	310½
Int.Biotech.Tst.	930	-16	996	480
International Public	129½	+1¾	130	107¾
Invesco Asia.	436		447	300
Invesco Perp UK	385	+1	391	313½
JPM American	1116	+8	1168	869
JPM Asian	487#	-4½	497	331½
JPM Claverhouse	892#	+10	896	660
JPM Emerg Mkt	145½#	-1¼	148½	95
JPM Euro Sml Co.	628#	+2	632	444½
JPM Global Emerging	184½	-½	186	118½
JPM Indian	988#	+12	1106	904
JPM Japanese	747#	+8	759	493
JPM Overseas IT	574		609	480
JPM Smaller Co	348	+3½	349½	253
JPM US Sml Co.	416	+8	508	338
Jupiter Euro.	888	-1	959	757
JZ Capital Partners	184		220	184
Law Debenture	1162	+18	1170	788
Lowland Invest Co	175½	+1½	177½	114½
Majedie Inv.	276	+4	286	230
Manchester&Lon.	748	+4	944	512
Martin Currie Prtflo Tst.	339	-3	382	295
Maven Income And Growth VCT 34½			38	33½
Mercantile Inv Tst	269#	+2	270	202½
Merchants Tst	651	+15	656	474
Mid Wynd Int.	742	-10	825	664
Monks Inv.Tst.	1492	-16	1554	1036
Montanaro Euro Tst.	164	-1	183½	138
Montanaro Uk	105½#	+½	106½	87¾
Murray Inc.Tst.	933	+11	938	754
Murray Int.Tst	350#	+4½	350¾	239
New India	752	+4	832	686
New Star Inv.Tst.	127	-1	131	100
North Atl.Smlr.Tst	361	+1	402	318
Northern 2 VCT	53½		57	52½
Northern Venture	56½		58½	55½
Oxford Tech 2 VCT	7		7	5½
Pacific Assets.	380	-1	384	302
Pacific Horizon	886	-2	899	507
Pantheon Int.	365	-8	389	266
Pershing Square Hold	4540	+64	5090	3244
Polar Cap.Tech	484	-10	504	255½
RCM Technology Trust	517	-17	554	307
RIT Capital Partners	2200	+10	2275	1722
Ruffer Investment	303½	+2½	308	272½
Schroder Asia	695#	-3	705	461½
Schroder Inc.	358	+3	361	255
Schroder Japan	329	+3	334	209
Schroder UK	205	-1	211	158½
Schroder UK M&S	734#	-4	756	520
Scottish American	521	+3	525	454½
Scottish Mortgage	1226	-24	1267	815¼
Shires Inc.	323½	+5½	325	222
Small Comp Div.Tst	142	+5	150	124
Standard Life Equity	433	+7	434	288½
Standard Life UK Sml	520	+3	531	426
Temple Bar.	397½	+9	398½	258
Templeton Emrg.	262½	-½	264½	151¾
The European Inv.Tst	105#	-1	111½	84
Throgmorton Tst.	664	+3	669	469
TR Euro.Growth	225#	+1½	229½	163
TR Prop. IT	335	+4½	338½	277½
Witan Pacific	310	-3	322	223
Wwide Healthcare	363	-1	397	265½
Financial Services				
3i Group	3357	+108	4459	2999
3i Infrastructure	342	-6	385	301
Abrdn	218¾	+1	225¼	123¾
Ashmore Group	246½	+5¼	247	125
Guinness Peat Group	87	+2	92	68¼
IG Group	1352	-2	1377	913
Intermediate Cap.Grp.	1696	+40	2450	1569
International Pers Fin	235	+2	237	121½
IP Group	59¼		65	34¾
Jupiter Fund Man.	191	-2½	195¼	68
Liontrust Asset Man	237½	+4	458	231½
London Stock Ex.	7170	-10	12095	6684
M&G	310	-2½	315	172¾
Man Group	263	+1½	271¾	154¾
Provident Financial	118½	-1	128½	51
Rathbone Brothers	2225	+25	2240	1406
S & U	2380	-20	2410	1330
Schroders	461¼	+3	467	289¼
St James's Place	1516½	-36½	1555	791
Tullett Prebon	255	+3½	311½	228
Walker Crips Group	13½	+½	14	7½
Fixed Line Telecommunications				
Airtel Africa	324½	+½	372¾	135½
BT Group	205#	+11	222¾	141¾
Food & Drug Retailers				
Greggs	1705	+84	2182	1418
Marks & Spencer	391¼	+16	411¼	318½
Ocado	233¾	+1½	395½	172¼
Sainsbury (J)	335¼	+9¼	355¾	228¾
Tesco	450½	+15	475½	314½
Food Producers				
A.B. Foods.	1931	+57½	2337	1838
Anglo-Eastern	1500	-20	1535	650
Carr's Milling	133½#	+3	157	117
Cranswick.	5320	+40	5490	4625
Glanbia	1478	+34½	1478	786½
Greencore Group	305#	+3½	307½	169¼
Kerry Grp 'A' Shs.	6551½	+190¼	8729½	6153¾
Premier Foods	193	+2	214½	167
REA Holdings	132	-1	135½	61½
Tate & Lyle	395	+17	656	358
Gas, Water & Multiutilities				
Centrica	193¼	+1½	196¾	135¼
National Grid	1278	+22	1301	919¾
Pennon Group	558½#	+10	565	387½
Severn Trent	3004	+61	3052	2370
United Utilities	1286½	+28½	1300	944½
General Industrials				
Bunzl	2144	+94	3442	1989
Goodwin	27600	+200	28500	6180
Melrose	616¾	-1	680	386
Mondi	890½	+33¼	1326	819
Smiths Group	2542	-8	2638	1687
Smurfit Kappa	3186	+156	4454	2558
General Retailers				
ASOS	292	-2½	403¾	218½
Auto Trader	498	-8¼	908½	492
B&M Europ Value Ret	183	+8	344½	155¼
Caffyns	415		500	415
Dixons Carphone	151	+1	152½	85¼
Dunelm	938½	+23½	1232	858½
Frasers Group	719½	+22½	770	546
Halfords Group	153¾	+5	174½	116¼
Headlam Group.	42¾	+¼	129¼	42½
Howden Joinery	870½	+21	914½	679½
Inchcape	833½	+10	839½	638
JD Sports	83¼	+1	104½	63¼
Kingfisher	348	+10	354¼	240¼
Next	12965	+165	14580	9584
Pets At Home	220½	+8½	273¼	192¾
RM Group	103		115	82
Topps Tiles	43½	+¾	50	29
WH Smith	691#	+24	1286	613½
Health Care Equipment & Services				
Convatec Group	225½	+2¼	295½	221
Flying Brands	+½		1¾	+½
Smith & Nephew	1278½	+28½	1435	937¾
Household Goods & Home Construction				
Barratt Development	400	+5¾	482¼	350
Bellway	2726	-12	2982	2166
Berkeley Grp Hldgs	4318	+154	4400¾	3524
Bovis Homes	686	+11¾	701	510¾
Mcbride	156	+2¼	160½	107
Persimmon	1462	+15	1486½	1037½
Reckitt Benckiser	6274#	+147	6218½	6102
Taylor Wimpey	109¾	+¼	123¼	93
Industrial Engineering				
Bodycote	768	+11	780	460½
Hill & Smith	2250	-5	2360	1530
IMI	2824	-2	2862	1606
Morgan Crucible	236	+6	274	177½
Northgate	389½	+3	395	273½
Rotork	371¼	+9¾	374½	275¾
Spirax-Sarco	7380	+95	7940	5445
Vesuvius	468½	+¼	479	313¾
Weir Group	3342	-12	3400	1984
Xaar	105	-3	145	59
Industrial Metals & Mining				
Castings.	258	-10	319	234
Evraz				
Ferrexpo	73¼	-2½	108¾	44¼
Industrial Transportation				
Braemar Shipping Serv	214	-2	275	201
Clarkson	4175	-5	4505	2995
FirstGroup	190½	+½	233	146½
Fisher (J) & Sons	431	-19	450	285
Leisure Goods				
Games Workshop.	17010	+240	19840	12410
Photo-Me Intl.	140½	+4	230	132
Life Insurance				
Aviva	654½	+7½	692½	493
Chesnara	310½	-2	316	212¾
Legal & General	272	+3	275½	215¼
Phoenix Group	754½	+3	768	499¼
Prudential	1215½	-4½	1238	655
Media				
4imprint Group	3920	-70	5790	3035
Bloomsbury Publish.	460	-19	664	460
Future	510#	-15	1029	492½
Informa	835¾	+¼	993½	640¼
ITV	82¾	+1	87¾	66¼
Pearson	897½	+3	1379	875
Reach	63¾	-¼	87½	53
STV Group	114¼	-1¾	202	103
Wilmington Group.	296	+2	387	288½
WPP Group	257¼	-9¾	787¾	255½
Mining				
Anglo American	3560	-140	3754	2003¾
Anglo Pacific	138½	-2½	152½	50
Antofagasta.	3627	-241	3908	1383
BHP Billiton	2619	-35	2713	1609½
Endeavour Mining	4172	-100	4542	1536
Fresnillo.	3776	-126	4448	713½
Gem Diamonds	4¼	+1¼	11¾	2¾
Glencore	511¼	-6	531	230
Hochschild Mining.	664½	-27½	750½	179½
Kenmare Res.	255	-2½	436	227
Petra Diamonds	15	+½	30½	10½
Rio Tinto	7005	-33	7228	4117
Mobile Telecommunications				
Vodafone Group	114¼#	+3	116½	64
Nonequity Investment Instruments				
Oryx Int.Gwth.	1325	-5	1392½	1042½
Rights &Iss.Inc	2120	+50	2220	1670
Nonlife Insurance				
Admiral Group				
Beazley Group	1240	+80	1270	769
Hiscox	1539	+56	1555	1035
Lancashire	642	+24	694	523
Oil & Gas Producers				
BP	477¾	+11¼	481¼	331¾
Cairn Energy	253½	+2½	319½	183
Enquest	12¼	-¼	16½	9¾
Gulf Keystone Pet.	186½	+2¾	224½	148¾
Harbour Energy	225¼	-4	243¼	151¼
Shell	2867	+77½	2931½	2291½
Soco International	21½	+½	25	18
Tullow Oil	7½	-¼	21½	4
Oil Equipment, Services & Distribution				
Hunting	468½	+10½	482	246½
John Wood Group	26		71	17¼
Personal Goods				
Burberry Group	1111½	+38½	1371½	627¾
PZ Cussons	76	+½	88¼	66
Unilever	5178	+133	6177½	4631
Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology				
AstraZeneca	13796	-20	14346	9667
Genus	3080	+20	3160	1548
GlaxoSmithKline	2080	+134½	2111½	1264
Haleon	395	+10½	415¼	326½
Hikma	1632	+78	2340	1507
Ovoca Gold				
Oxford Biomedica	826	+8	913	232½
Real Estate Investment & Services				
Boot (Henry)	190	+1	237	189
Cardiff Property	2700		2700	2540
CLS Holdings	60½	-1½	75	53½
Foxtons	52	-½	67¾	50¾
Harworth Group	162½	+1	189½	159½
Mountview Est.	8750	-125	10200	8700
Panther Secs.	290		315	275½
Rightmove	450½	-18½	823¾	436¾
Savills	1074	+4	1110	871
Wynnstay Props.	875	+15	900	695
Real Estate Investment Trusts				
Big Yellow Group	1044	+20	1180	848
British Land	424½	+6½	432	321¼
Capital & Counties	146¾	+2½	161¼	113½
Derwent London	1931	+27	2096	1608
Grainger	196½#	+3	228	177½
Great Portland Est.	365½	-3	377	262
Hammerson	358½	+5¾	358½	220½
Helical Bar	198½	+2½	240	174
Land Securities	675	+23	678½	499½
London & Stamford Prop	202½	+2½	204½	170½
Primary Health.	105½#	+1¼	106	87½
SEGRO	776¼	+14¼	777¼	599
Town Centre	125	-½	149	118
Unite Group	586	+13½	879½	510
Value & Income	203¼	+3¼	215	173
Workspace Group	419½	-1	473½	362
Software & Computer Services				
Computacenter	3122	-166	3376	2122
Intec Telecom				
Microgen	251	+5	344	239¾
Moneysupermarket	169¼	-10½	221½	169
Pendragon	472	-2½	558	296
RELX	2185	-29	4135	2114¾
Sage Group	845½#	-25½	1340½	832½
Triad Group	291		400	240
Support Services				
Ashtead Group	5014#	+208	5594	3659
Capita Group	387½	-1½	407½	175
DCC	5010	+370	5495	4350
Diploma	5370	+45	5685	3624
Essentra	103¼	+3¼	126¼	89¾
Experian Group	2546#	-9	4088	2493
Ferguson	19070#	+340	19470	11670
Hays	47½	+1¼	88¼	45
Intertek Group	4466	+80	5385	4064
Johnson Service	144½	+2	159½	124
London Security	2850		3800	2600
Macfarlane Group	72	+½	120½	62¾
Mears Group	362	+5	417½	311½
Michael Page	206¾	+7½	341¼	193
Mitie Group	174¾#	+3¾	176½	112
Norish	24		24	14
Paypoint	541	+11	853	438½
Rentokil Initial	462¾	+¾	480¾	309½
Robert Walters	125		296	116
RS Group	684½	+16½	696¾	487¼
Serco Group	298	-3¼	305¼	152
SIG	9¾	-¼	18	8½
Smiths News	68¼#	-1	77½	47½
Speedy Hire	25½		32¼	18
SThree	192	+7¾	278	137½
Travis Perkins	660½	+24½	714	494
Trifast	79½	+2½	87½	59
Vitec Group	11¾	-½	125	11
Technology Hardware & Equipment				
BATM Advanced	15	+¼	19¾	13
Tobacco				
British Amer.Tob	4494#	-12	4574	2965
Imperial Brands	3260	+99	3312	2667
Travel & Leisure				
888 Holdings	25¾	-½	73¾	21
Carnival	2342	+4	2406	1134
Celtic	195		200	142½
Compass Group	2222#	+58	2843	2164
Domino's Pizza.	189¾	+9¼	302	167¼
EasyJet	495¾	+5¼	587¾	427½
Entain	648	+61½	1022	501¼
Flutter Entert.	11605	+250	23630	11037½
Fuller Smith & Turner	684	-4	738	508
Heavitree	220		280	200
InterContinental Htl	10433¾	+465	10488¾	5435¾
Intl Consolidated Airlines	432	-1	437	224½
Irish Continental Uts	562½		575	380
Marston's	60½		69	33¼
Mitchells & Butlers	274	+10½	291½	208½
National Express	25	+1¼	71¾	21
Rank Group	90½	+2	160½	78
Saga	572	-6	590	117½
Wetherspoon (JD)	685	+18	804	541
Whitbread	2769	+80	3274	2335
AIM				
Alumasc Group	260	+10	395	232
Arbuthnot Banking	877½		1100	837½
Boohoo	22½	-1	29	10½
Camellia	4945		6050	4090
Churchill China	435		710	324
CML Microsystems.	252		335	210
Colefax Group	1150		1165	750
CPP Group	77¾		162	60
Cropper (James)	380		400	132½
Falkland Islands	245#		316¾	162½
Fevertree Drinks	886	+10	998	671½
Filtronic	195	+9	196	82½
James Halstead	143	+2	172	133
Mothercare	2		4	1¾
Mpac Group	355	+3	554	270
Naked Wine.	74¼	+¾	93½	43
Nichols.	1020	-10	1465	930
Northamber	31#		34	26¼
Portmeirion.	95		189	93½
Regal Petroleum	16½		23½	14½
Rockhopper Exploratn	72½	-2	87¾	33½
Ten Alps	46		73	46
Titon Holdings	95		97½	69
Volex.	441½	+3½	470	198¾
Young & Co Brewery A.	839	-1	992	714

The service is provided for general information only and is not intended to address individual requirements. Appropriate independent advice should be obtained before making investment decisions. Reasonable care will be taken in ensuring the accuracy of the information provided but it may include errors, omissions or inaccuracies.

Ex-dividend * Ex-rights a Ex-All c Ex-capitalisation † Shares suspended

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Racing

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JANGO GOES FOR GOLD

Henderson's hopeful to miss Festival warm-up

By **David Yates**

JANGO BAIE will have his next race in the Boodles Cheltenham Gold Cup after Nicky Henderson decided against a National Hunt Festival prep in Saturday's William Hill Denman Chase.

And the Seven Barrows trainer will monitor ground conditions at Newbury before committing Arkle Challenge Trophy favourite Lulamba to the William Hill Game Spirit Chase.

Jango Baie is a best-priced 5-1 second favourite for the Gold Cup on the back of his fourth in the King George VI Chase at Kempton Park on Boxing Day and Henderson said: "He goes straight there.

"We've made that decision, I've spoken to [owner] Tony Barney and he's more than happy.

"He's in great form. We always go to Kempton the fortnight before and I'm pretty sure he'll be on that bus."

Lulamba heads the Singer-sponsored Arkle betting at 6-4 after following a fencing-bow score at Exeter with a nine-and-a-half-length winning margin in the Grade One Henry VIII Novices' Chase at Sandown in December.

"The intention is to run Lulamba but I'm tossing the balls in the air every five minutes," added Henderson.

"He's only had two runs over fences and in one of them he only jumped five fences.

"It didn't tell us a lot, but then he wins a Grade One very impressively and jumps beautifully."

Oisín Murphy teamed up with Constitution Hill yesterday morning and will be on board when the 2023 Champion Hurdler makes his Flat debut at Southwell on February 20.

"We had a little practice in the stalls and then he had a gallop over nine furlongs this morning with two pretty high-class companions," said Henderson.

"Oisín was happy, I was happy and we're on schedule for Southwell. He's in great form."

FESTIVAL JOY: Jango Baie winning at Cheltenham last March

Classy looking Act

By **The Scout** (Melissa Jones)

ACT OF INNOCENCE (3.10, trb) can hold court in the Listed Don Lockwood Sidney Banks Memorial Novices' Hurdle at Huntingdon.

Nicky Henderson, below, has claimed the 2m 3½f event with the likes of Shishkin (2020) and Califet En Vol (2025) – and this year's favourite is fancied to confirm form with market rival Sinnatra.

My selection tried to concede lumps of weight to smart juvenile Minella Yoga – who ran well at Grade Two level around Cheltenham subsequently – and today's longer trip should suit on his Newbury effort.

Now he has adapted to seven furlongs and with a more experienced jockey on-board than last time at Southwell, ASIAN JOURNEY (7.30, Nap) looks ready to strike.

Handicap debutant STORMING GEORGE (2.25, nb) should get the run of the race at Doncaster, where he showed a decent injection of pace to open his hurdling account in November.

HUNTINGDON RACINGTV

JACKPOT: www.totepoolliveinfo.com

THE SCOUT

12.50 Ritaan
1.25 Zoeman
2.00 Paggane
2.35 Bushstreet Bowman
3.10 ACT OF INNOCENCE (trb)
3.43 Newmill Getaway
4.18 Power Of Silence

12.50 HANDICAP HURDLE
£3,697 (Class 5) 2m 3f 137yds (8 dec)

1	P5-32L5	**BLUE UNIVERSE (F26)** M Attwater 6 12-0	S Fenelon	99
2	13124L	**RABY MERE (173) (D)** C Fryer 7 11-13	L Stones	99
3	75-FP15	**A GOOD YOMP (36) (C&D)** Andrew Martin 7 11-11	Dillon Butler(10)	97
4	4-27P	**LA BELLE ARGENTEE (62)** D Skelton 5 11-10	Harry Atkins(6)	94
5	2P7-L53	**KATIRA DU MESTIVEL (36)** B Pauling 6 11-8	Beau Morgan(3)	★101
6	5-76P22	**LITTLE PI (45)** S Allwood 8 11-2	T McCain-Mitchell	100
7	7-L09LL	**ONEHUNDREDNEIGHTY (41)** M Young 6 10-10	Tabitha Worsley	90
8	L45	● **RITAAN (21)** G Nicholls 4 10-2	F Lambert	89

CHEEK PIECES: No. 6 HOOD: Nos. 3, 8.

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Little Pi, 3 Katira Du Mestivel, 6 Raby Mere, 7 A Good Yomp, 8 Blue Universe, 10 La Belle Argentee, 14 Ritaan, Onehundredneighty.
2025: Tramuntana 6-11-8, Lewis Saunders(6) 15-8 Fav (O Murphy), 9 ran.

1.25 HANDICAP CHASE
£4,489 (5) 2m 3f 189yds (10)

1	4507-8L	**MALFOY MANOR (56)** D Skelton 7 12-0	H Skelton	72
2	P2/L90	**WINGS ON WHEELS (50)** I Williams 7 11-12	R T Dunne	–
3	132-443	**SANITISER (10)** G & J Moore 7 11-12	F Mitchell(3)	★105
4	565/332	● **ZOEMAN (21)** T R George 7 11-10	J J Burke	102
5	8321L9	**ZACONY REBEL (19) (C,D)** S-J Davies 11 11-7	J Best	101
6	2P43L-3	**BROTHER BORIS (18)** L Wadham 7 11-3	Doubtful	104
7	2214-65	**NIGHT JET (21)** T Symonds 9 10-11	D Bass	103
8	3-9P3PL	**MISTERODDSOCKS (36)** B Case 6 10-9	J Tudor	95
9	8P2-134	**CARPE DIEM (39)** D Bridgwater 8 10-9	B J Powell	57
10	2L-LL3P	**MARTALMIX'JAC (24)** Mrs M Rowley 9 10-4	C Deutsch	98

BLINKERS: Nos. 3, 5 VISOR: Nos. 6, 9 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 5, 8, 10
CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 4, 7, 8, 10.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 10, 7, 5.

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Zoeman, 5 Sanitiser, Malfoy Manor, 6 Wings On Wheels, 13-2 Night Jet, 12 Martalmix'jac, Carpe Diem, 14 Misteroddsocks, 20 Others.
2025: Ginger Jonny 7-11-5, Jonathan Burke 4-1 Fav (C Longsdon), 12 ran.

2.00 MARES' CHASE (LISTED) (GBB RACE)
£23,092 (1) 2m 3f 189yds (6)

1	2-22113	● **PAGGANE (38) (D,F)** Faye Bramley 7 11-6	H Cobden	★156
2	L0-LLL3	**ALL THE GLORY (20)** J & A O'Neill 9 11-2	K Brogan	144
3	24119-3	**JASMINE BLISS (41)** Harry Derham 7 11-2	Paul O'Brien	142
4	13/6-	**PIPER PARK (405)** T Lacey 7 11-2	S Sheppard	–
5	16-2144	**RUBY ISLAND (54) (T)** N Richards 9 11-2	D McMenamin	139
6	1-3515L	**SHAKEYATAILFEATHER (75) (D)** D Skelton 7 11-2	H Skelton	141

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 3, 4 CHEEK PIECES: No. 2.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 2, 3, 1, 5.

SP FORECAST: 4-11 Paggane, 13-2 Jasmine Bliss, 8 All The Glory, 14 Ruby Island, 20 Shakeyatailfeather, 33 Piper Park.
2025: Telepathique 7-11-2, Tom Cannon 11-4 (L Wadham), 4 ran.

2.35 HOOK POLO NOVICES' HANDICAP HURDLE
£5,281 (4) 1m 7f 171yds (9)

1	25-7233	**ESCORT'KHEOPS (39)** L Horsfall 6 12-1	K Brogan	111
2	3-03P0	**ALIDAM (27)** Mrs S Leech 5 11-8	Miss Roisin Leech(7)	70
3	3-46733	**EASTERN SHORES (39)** F O'Brien 6 11-7	J J Burke	105
4	8-12774	**GOLDEN FALLS (21)** L Wadham 4 11-4	Doubtful	★121
5	8FL7	● **BUSHSTREET BOWMAN (22)** B Pauling 6 11-3	B R Jones	97
6	0175	**WESTLAIN (25)** Jack Jones 4 11-1	L Williams	119
7	2P31	**LUNAR ORBIT (63)** W Greatrex 4 11-0	Paul O'Brien	118
8	315	**DISSIDENT (26)** G & J Moore 4 10-9	R T Dunne	118
9	9002PP/	**CELINE MAN (652)** J R Jenkins 8 10-2	J Best	–

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 3 HOOD: Nos. 3, 4, 6, 7, 8.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 4.

SP FORECAST: 3 Lunar Orbit, 4 Bushstreet Bowman, 9-2 Escort'kheops, Dissident, 5 Eastern Shores, 12 Alidam, Westlain, 25 Celine Man.
2025: Imaginarium 6-12-0, Sean Bowen 6-1 (O Murphy), 8 ran.

3.10 NOVICES' HURDLE (LISTED) (GBB RACE)
£22,780 (1) 2m 3f 137yds (6)

1	1/10-113	**FRESH PERSPECTIVE (61)** J Snowden 6 11-8	G Sheehan	126
2	341-12	● **ACT OF INNOCENCE (38)** N Henderson 6 11-5	N De Boinville	137
3	051-125	**GLANCE AT MIDNIGHT (41) (C)** Andrew Martin 6 11-5	Shane Quinlan	★139
4	14-221	**SINNATRA (33)** D Skelton 6 11-5	H Skelton	135
5	36-313	**TIDDESLEY WOOD (38) (D)** F O'Brien 6 11-5	J J Burke	128
6	1-112	**LADY TADITA (37) (C)** J Snowden 5 10-12	J A Anderson	131

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 5.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 2, 1.

SP FORECAST: 11-10 Act Of Innocence, 7-4 Sinnatra, 10 Glance At Midnight, 12 Lady Tadita, Fresh Perspective, 20 Tiddesley Wood.
2025: Califet En Vol 6-11-5, Nico De Boinville 5-4 Fav (N Henderson), 6 ran.

3.43 MARES' HANDICAP HURDLE
£3,697 (5) 3m 1f 10yds (7)

1	213-63L	**JOLIE BAIE (22)** Miss J Davis 7 12-0	G Sheehan	★101
2	25-575	**DILLY'S GUNNER (20)** M & D Easterby 5 11-12	Doubtful	92
3	5654-32	**BRIERY BUTTERFLY (73)** H Daly 7 11-9	D Bass	98
4	1-50LL7	**DELTA BLUES BELLE (35)** D Skelton 6 11-8	H Skelton	86
5	6/53-225	● **NEWMILL GETAWAY (19)** F O'Brien 7 11-3	J J Burke	98
6	422131	**STAMINA CHOPE (6) (D)** Dave Roberts 10 11-0	Lee Edwards	99
7	0-8P6P5	**DONTWORRYWEGOTTHIS (24)** G Howell 7 10-2	Tabitha Worsley(3)	70

TONGUE STRAP: No. 1 CHEEK PIECES: No. 7.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 1, 6.

SP FORECAST: 6-4 Stamina Chope, 2 Briery Butterfly, 7-2 Newmill Getaway, 10 Jolie Baie, 14 Delta Blues Belle, 100 Dontworrywegotthis.
2025: Cluain Aodha 8-11-9, Jack Quinlan 12-1 (N King), 10 ran.

4.18 OPEN NH FLAT RACE (GBB RACE)
£2,178 (5) 1m 7f 171yds (10)

1	1	**WILDE'S LEGACY (46) (D,F)** J Snowden 5 11-11	G Sheehan	103
2		**ANOTHER GHIA** A Hales 5 11-4	J Hogan	–
3	3-7	**FINAL SURPRISE (72)** A Ralph 5 11-4	J J Burke	102
4	12	**LOCH NESS PINEAU (24)** B Pauling 5 11-4	B R Jones	★111
5		**MAC J (T)** D Rees 5 11-4	C Ring	–
6	4	**MIDNIGHT ESCAPE (63)** B Case 5 11-4	J Tudor	96
7	52	● **POWER OF SILENCE (110)** D Skelton 5 11-4	H Skelton	–
8	8L	**PRETTY DARN QUICK (65)** Sarah Hollinshead 6 11-4	R T Dunne	55
9		**SOLO ECLIPSE** D Killahena & G McPherson 6 11-4	N Slatter(3)	–
10	6-	**QUEEN MARCIA (306)** D J Jeffreys 5 10-11	C Deutsch	87

TONGUE STRAP: No. 9.

SP FORECAST: 2 Loch Ness Pineau, 5-2 Wilde's Legacy, 4 Power Of Silence, 10 Final Surprise, 12 Midnight Escape, 14 Solo Eclipse, 16 Another Ghia, 20 Queen Marcia, 25 Others.
2025: Spectacularsunrise 5-11-4, Jamie Brace(5) 20-1 (N & W Twiston-Davies), 12 ran.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Good to Soft. Right Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Gavin Sheehan 29% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** F O'Brien 24% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 1.25 Brother Boris (visor), Zoeman (cheek pieces), Malfoy Manor (cheek pieces), Misteroddsocks (cheek pieces, tongue strap), Carpe Diem (visor), 2.00 Piper Park (tongue strap), 2.35 Celine Man (wind surgery), Dissident (hood), 3.10 Fresh Perspective (tongue strap), 4.18 Solo Eclipse (tongue strap, wind surgery), Pretty Darn Quick (wind surgery). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 12.50 Raby Mere(hcp ch). 1.25 Brother Boris(hcp ch). 3.10 Act Of Innocence, Lady Tadita. 4.18 Loch Ness Pineau. **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Mac J** (4.18) 276 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 12.50 **Raby Mere** from O Murphy to C Fryer. 2.35 **Celine Man** from Miss H Knight to J R Jenkins. 4.18 **Power Of Silence** from Donnchadh Doyle in Ireland to D Skelton.

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YESTERDAY'S RESULTS & PRICES

KEMPTON: Standard to slow

12.50–PORT NOIR (Rose Dawes, 40-1) 1; Age Of Time (5-1) 2; Galaxy Wonder (2-1 fav) 3. H'cap 9 ran. ¾l, 2l. (R Stephens). Tote: £44.20; pl £8.50, £1.80, £1.50. exacta: £300.20. tricast: £611.01. trifecta: £1553.10. CSF: £231.84. Non-runner: Our Dagger.

1.25–GLISTENING (O Murphy, 14-1) 1; Naana's Crystal (7-4 jt fav) 2; Too Hot To Tango (7-4 jt fav) 3. 12 ran. 1½l, 3½l. (Ollie Sangster). Tote: £16.20; pl £3.70, £1.20, £1.20. exacta: £65.80. trifecta: £213.30. CSF: £40.37.

2.00–POPMASTER (T Marquand, 15-2) 1; The Lost King (6-5 fav) 2; Nikovo (22-1) 3. H'cap 10 ran. ¾l, 1¼l. (E Walker). Tote: £8.50; pl £2.20, £1.10, £4.70. exacta: £21.60. tricast: £203.46. trifecta: £275.20. CSF: £16.67.

2.35–U S S CONSTITUTION (H Crouch, 5-2 2nd fav) 1; Bullington Bry (10-1) 2; Sanditon (16-1) 3. H'cap 11 ran. 1¼l, 1l. (E Walker; 6-4 fav Portoro). Tote: £3.50; pl £1.60, £2.80, £3.90. exacta: £33.70. tricast: £347.92. trifecta: £294.50. CSF: £27.93.

3.10–I'M WORKIN ON IT (L Edmunds, 10-3 2nd fav) 1; Valley Ofthe Kings (20-1) 2; Diamondonthehill (7-1) 3. H'cap 10 ran. 4l, ½l. (B Millman; 9-4 fav Mythical Composer). Tote: £4.34; pl £1.70, £3.90, £2.40. exacta: £66.10. tricast: £454.37. trifecta: £700.30. CSF: £72.13.

3.45–DUST COVER (P Bradley, 7-2 2nd fav) 1; Something (3-1 fav) 2; Golden Circet (9-1) 3. H'cap 13 ran. 1l, ns. (R Burdon). Tote: £4.50; pl £1.90, £1.90, £3.20. exacta: £21.90. tricast: £94.24. trifecta: £183.90. CSF: £14.05.

4.15–INITIAL BLUE (Rossa Ryan, 11-4 2nd fav) 1; Respectable Jack (5-2 fav) 2; Magna (4-1) 3. H'cap 9 ran. 3¼l, 2¾l. (Dr R Newland & J Insole). Tote: £3.75; pl £1.40, £1.40, £1.50. exacta: £11.60. tricast: £27.17. trifecta: £41.80. CSF: £10.35. Non-runners: Dr Ali, Friday Again.

Jackpot: Not won, pool of £2,576.83 carried over.
Placepot: £31.10
(Race 1) 9, 6, 5; (2) 2, 8, 12; (3) 2, 6, 5; (4) 10, 8, 9; (5) 8, 1, 2; (6) 9, 2, 1.
Quadpot: £13.10

LUDLOW: Soft

1.13–KING AL (T Bellamy, 2-1 fav) 1; Talakan (10-3) 2; Wolf Rayet (5-2 2nd fav) 3. 8 ran. nk, 2¾l. (A King). Tote: £3.00; pl £1.10, £1.60, £1.10. exacta: £10.80. trifecta: £24.80. CSF: £9.62.

1.48–DIAMOND DU BERLAIS (Mr P W Mullins, 3-10 fav) 1; Afancy Getaway (16-5 2nd fav) 2; Catwalk Girl (40-1) 3. 12 ran. 4¾l, 8½l. (W P Mullins (IRE)). Tote: £1.30; pl £1.10, £1.10, £4.40. exacta: £2.30. trifecta: £21.60. CSF: £2.04.

2.23–SHERMINATOR (B Carver, 5-2 2nd fav) 1; First Candidate (7-2) 2; Kiwi Rush (4-5 fav) 3. 11 ran. ¾l, 7½l. (H Fry). Tote: £3.50; pl £1.10, £1.40, £1.10. exacta: £15.60. trifecta: £22.70. CSF: £12.94. Non-runner: Joeybottles.

2.58–RODNEY (C Deutsch, 5-2 fav) 1; Toothless (3-1 2nd fav) 2; Joker De Mai (6-1) 3. H'cap 7 ran. ½l, 2¾l. (Kerry Lee). Tote: £3.50; pl £1.70, £2.00. exacta: £11.60. tricast: £39.33. trifecta: £53.30. CSF: £11.01. Non-runner: Regal Renaissance.

3.33–MAGICAL MAGGIE (C Gethings, 11-1) 1; Masked Dance (7-1) 2; Sallyville Lady (5-2 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 10 ran. 1l, 9½l. (A Ralph; 15-8 fav Hard Dealt). Tote: £12.00; pl £3.30, £1.60, £1.50. exacta: £62.70. tricast: £258.26. trifecta: £345.70. CSF: £85.87. Non-runner: Notnowlinda.

4.07–WINDSOR BLUE (S Twiston-Davies, 20-1) 1; Following Chapter (4-6 fav) 2; Lion Of The Desert (50-1) 3. H'cap 12 ran. 2½l, 7½l. (H Daly). Tote: £26.80; pl £3.20, £1.10, £11.20. exacta: £67.80. tricast: £846.60. trifecta: £1719.60. CSF: £36.54. Non-runner: Unleash The Beast.

4.42–BARTON SNOW (Mr H Crow, 4-5 fav) 1; Jeffery's Cross (7-4 2nd fav) 2; Rewritetherules (50-1) 3. 6 ran. 12l, 8l. (J J O'Shea). Tote: £1.80; pl £1.10, £1.20. exacta: £2.60. trifecta: £24.60. CSF: £2.76.

Placepot: £4.30
(Race 1) 3, 6, 7; (2) 4, 1, 3; (3) 8, 11, 6; (4) 1, 6; (5) 6, 2, 8; (6) 3, 2, 5.
Quadpot: £4.00

SEDGEFIELD: Good to soft-good in places

1.32–FOLLOW YOUR LUCK (B Hughes, 9-2 2nd fav) 1; Division Day (evens fav) 2; Sioux Falls (14-1) 3. 10 ran. 5l, 3¾l. (P Neville). Tote: £5.50; pl £1.90, £1.10, £3.80. exacta: £12.40. trifecta: £73.10. CSF: £10.17.

2.07–MERSEY STREET (Jonjo O'Neill Jr, 9-2) 1; Huit Reflets (11-4 2nd fav) 2; Begin The Luck (13-2) 3. H'cap 8 ran. 3¼l, 12l. (J & A O'Neill; 5-2 fav Too Cool Forshrule). Tote: £5.50; pl £1.70, £1.40, £2.40. exacta: £13.00. tricast: £82.06. trifecta: £72.50. CSF: £18.92.

2.42–VAMPIRE SLAYER (C Bewley, 11-8 fav) 1; Snapius (10-1) 2; Linden Lane (4-1 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 8 ran. 7½l, 5½l. (D Bourke). Tote: £2.38; pl £1.10, £3.10, £1.40. exacta: £18.30. tricast: £48.67. trifecta: £72.40. CSF: £16.93.

3.17–DOUBLE DIGITS (D McMenamin, 2-1 fav) 1; Sea Thrift (9-4 2nd fav) 2; Supreme George (6-1) 3. H'cap 6 ran. 6½l, nk. (A Hamilton). Tote: £3.40; pl £2.00, £1.50. exacta: £7.80. trifecta: £26.30. CSF: £7.21.

3.52–BALLIN BAY (N Moscrop, 9-2) 1; Scudamore (8-1) 2; Dillarchie (13-8 fav) 3. H'cap 7 ran. 3l, 1l. (R Menzies). Tote: £5.50; pl £2.50, £3.60. exacta: £48.00. trifecta: £127.20. CSF: £39.80.

4.28–THANK YOU BLUE (L Stones, 4-1) 1; Jukebox Joker (9-4 fav) 2; Peckforton Hills (5-2 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 7 ran. 4¼l, ¾l. (J Candlish). Tote: £5.00; pl £2.40, £1.60. exacta: £15.50. tricast: £26.44. trifecta: £45.70. CSF: £14.24. Non-runners: Kellie's Dream, L'air Du Large.

Placepot: £42.20
(Race 1) 3, 10, 6; (2) 7, 6, 3; (3) 4, 2, 5; (4) 2, 5; (5) 2, 1; (6) 1, 6.
Quadpot: £15.90

NEWCASTLE: Standard

4.23–WICKSEY (A Mullen, 20-1) 1; Trust No One (7-2 2nd fav) 2; Saxophonic (11-2) 3. H'cap 9 ran. 2¼l, 2½l. (B Haslam; 10-3 fav Onyeisi). Tote: £21.20; pl £5.30, £1.60, £3.00. exacta: £126.50. tricast: £454.50. trifecta: £1126.60. CSF: £91.34. Non-runner: Lord Mayor.

5.00–HOWZAK (B Garritty, 28-1) 1; Asadjumeirah (8-1) 2; Teardrops (7-4 fav) 3. H'cap 8 ran. shd, ½l. (L Bailey). Tote: £35.90; pl £2.40, £1.10, £7.10. exacta: £361.20. tricast: £608.85. trifecta: £2259.00. CSF: £237.26.

5.30–PIT BOSS (B Garritty, 6-4 fav) 1; Spartan Fighter (7-1) 2; Yorkshire Glory (5-2 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 8 ran. nk, 1l. (L Bailey). Tote: £2.50; pl £1.20, £1.20, £2.40. exacta: £15.90. tricast: £26.30. trifecta: £39.40. CSF: £13.79.

6.00–RAJSTAR (J Hart, 15-2) 1; Spun To Gold (11-4 2nd fav) 2; Yaahobby (12-1) 3. H'cap 7 ran. 1¾l, nk. (B Haslam; 2-1 fav Bibendum). Tote: £8.50; pl £2.40, £2.00. exacta: £28.90. tricast: £246.70. trifecta: £167.90. CSF: £28.46. Non-runner: Jkr Cobbler.

6.30–CHAMPONIE (P J McDonald, 9-4 2nd fav) 1; Hayynah (10-11 fav) 2; Celtic Arrow (22-1) 3. 10 ran. nk, 2¼l. (G Boughey). Tote: £3.40; pl £1.30, £1.10, £2.90. exacta: £5.50. trifecta: £42.80. CSF: £4.65.

7.00–MONKS DREAM (S B Kirrane, 7-2) 1; Castan (5-1) 2; Arnhem (11-4 fav) 3. H'cap 6 ran. 1l, ½l. (T Easterby). Tote: £4.50; pl £2.10, £2.30. exacta: £23.00. trifecta: £73.40. CSF: £21.34. Non-runner: Hover On The Wind.

7.30–OUTBACK HEAT (Kaiya Fraser, 15-2) 1; Sovereign Bay (7-2) 2; Sintra (6-4 fav) 3. 10 ran. ¾l, nk. (Harry Eustace). Tote: £8.50; pl £2.50, £1.20, £1.10. exacta: £38.00. trifecta: £132.20. CSF: £34.79.

8.00–I CAN BOOGY (A Jary, 16-1) 1; Sir Maxi (8-1) 2; That Lucas Fella (3-1 2nd fav) 3. 8 ran. 1¼l, 1¾l. (N Tinkler; 11-4 fav Annalee Lass). Tote: £18.00; pl £4.30, £2.30, £1.50. exacta: £119.50. trifecta: £575.10. CSF: £138.55.

8.30–SEA LEGEND (Lauren Young, 2-1 fav) 1; Tasever (9-2) 2; Concert Boy (6-1) 3. H'cap 8 ran. 1l, 1¼l. (J Goldie). Tote: £4.20; pl £1.30, £1.60, £1.80. exacta: £13.40. tricast: £47.35. trifecta: £55.00. CSF: £12.00. Non-runner: Montpellier Green.

Placepot: £22.40
(Race 1) 8, 6, 4; (2) 4, 6, 2; (3) 5, 2, 6; (4) 4, 3; (5) 6, 8, 5; (6) 2, 5.
Quadpot: £4.40

DONCASTER SKYSPORTSRACING

THE SCOUT

12.40	Harley's Pride	3.00	Kalhandrion
1.15	Mustang Du Breuil	3.35	Another Fine Mess
1.50	King Esoteric	4.10	I Am The Moon
2.25	STORMING GEORGE (nb)		

12.40 NOVICES' LIMITED HANDICAP HURDLE
£3,248 (Class 5) 3m 84yds (10 declared)

1	4-0PL	**NEW INVENTION (47)** O Greenall & J Guerriero 6 11-12	T Durrell	96
2	56121 6	**YOU DID (14) (D)** B Ellison 6 11-11	C Maggs	93
3	3L4-412	**CASTANEA BREEZE (40)** L Wadham 6 11-10	Doubtful	
4	LL-342P	**FOX COTTAGE (25) (F)** Seamus Mullins 6 11-5	D Sansom	95
5	L-6L6LP	**PEARL SMOKE (16)** O Greenall & J Guerriero 5 11-5	N Andrews(10)	87
6	5PP-14P	**JEWEL EYED JUDY (25)** N & W Twiston-Davies 6 11-2	J Turner(3)	92
7	305-7L3	**CALL YOUR BLUFF (47)** E Lavelle 6 11-2	C Johnstone-Baker(10)	★97
8	46-L89	● **HARLEY'S PRIDE (22) (T)** D Pipe 6 11-1	R Corcoran(8)	79
9	58P/LPP	**KILNACARRA (71)** J Bedi 9 11-0	C Rabbitt(3)	67
10	4L-PL3P	**FANCY NANCY PANTS (14)** P Kirby 6 10-5	L Scott	94

VISOR: No. 9 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 5, 7, 9 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 6, 2.

SP FORECAST: 5-2 Call Your Bluff, 10-3 You Did, 4 Harley's Pride, 8 Fancy Nancy Pants, Jewel Eyed Judy, Fox Cottage, 16 New Invention, Pearl Smoke, 66 Others.

1.15 EBF JUNIOR 'NATIONAL HUNT' HURDLE 4YO
£5,991 (4) 2m 128yds (9)

1	11	**MILOU DU CHENET (63) (D)** W Greatrex 11-10	B Hughes	109
2	1	● **MUSTANG DU BREUIL (105) (F)** N Henderson 11-7	J Bowen	★111
3	23	**COTTON SOCKS (61)** L Wadham 11-0	Doubtful	
4		**DUC DE ROHAN** D Skelton 11-0	T Durrell	–
5	25	**MOLLY'S LAD (35)** F O'Brien 11-0	Fern O'Brien(5)	–
6	656	**PINK 'N PURPLE (22)** Seamus Mullins 11-0	D Sansom(3)	85
7	43	**PIPPIN'S LEGEND (37)** C Longsdon 11-0	T Bellamy	105
8	25	**THE GRAYSTER (37)** Dr R Newland & J Insole 11-0	L Scott(3)	104
9	48	**CAPLA RESDEV (36)** M & D Easterby 10-7	J Hamilton	–

TONGUE STRAP: No. 7 HOOD: No. 3.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 1.

SP FORECAST: 7-4 Mustang Du Breuil, 5-2 Milou Du Chenet, 4 Molly's Lad, 5 Duc De Rohan, 16 Pippin's Legend, The Grayster, 66 Pink 'n Purple, Capla Resdev.

1.50 MAIDEN HURDLE (GBB RACE)
£5,446 (4) 2m 128yds (12)

1	55/131-2	**COUNT OF VENDOME (85) (F)** D McCain 6 11-4	B Hughes	★119
2	9	**DIFFERENT DRUM (14)** L Allan 5 11-4	J Hamilton	77
3	2-4P	**LUCKIE DEVIL (23)** N Richards 6 11-4	C Bewley	–
4	70	**MADE ALL (21)** S England 5 11-4	J England	92
5	44-26	**NOT AT THAT PRICE (21)** C Longsdon 6 11-4	J Bowen	87
6	5	**PRINCE OF CLOVA (98)** P Niven 5 11-4	P J Kavanagh	–
7		**RIBBLE RIVER (F132)** Lizzie Quinlan 5 11-4	Sean Quinlan	–
8	21-13	**STANNERS GLEN (56) (T)** H Fry 7 11-4	B Carver	110
9	22F	**VICTORS SPIRIT (28)** N King 4 11-1	J Quinlan	–
10	R-LP	**ANNIE MCGRATH (16)** L Morgan 6 10-11	R Chapman	97
11	L3L-4	**UPTOWN LASS (95)** N Kent 6 10-11	C Hammond	100
12		● **KING ESOTERIC (F293)** D Skelton 4 10-6	T Durrell	–

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 4, 8 HOOD: No. 3.

SP FORECAST: 15-8 Count Of Vendome, 2 Stanners Glen, King Esoteric, 20 Ribble River, 25 Not At That Price, Victors Spirit, Prince Of Clova, 33 Uptown Lass, 66 Others.

2.25 VIRGIN BET DAILY PRICE BOOSTS H'CAP HURDLE
£5,651 (3) 2m 3f 88yds (6)

1	15-3IL	● **STORMING GEORGE (41) (C)** N King 6 11-8	J Quinlan	128
2	1F31-52	**I'M A LUMBERJACK (38)** A King 7 11-6	T Bellamy	130
3	1190/4-4	**GEROMINO (37) (C&D)** D McCain 10 11-6	C Maggs(5)	126
4	6-1L383	**BLUEGRASS (28)** S Edmunds 7 11-5	C Hammond	132
5	1/	**HUFFIN AN A PUFFIN (685)** L Wadham 7 11-3	T Cannon	–
6	143-272	**SMOKERINGINTHEDARK (35) (F)** N Richards 6 11-2	C Bewley	★134

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 3, 4 CHEEK PIECES: No. 4 HOOD: No. 2.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 4, 1.

SP FORECAST: 11-8 I'm A Lumberjack, 5-2 Storming George, 7-2 Smokeringinthedark, 12 Bluegrass, 14 Huffin An A Puffin, 20 Geromino.

3.00 VIRGIN BET NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE
£4,700 (4) 2m 7f 214yds (5)

1	248/27-2	**MUMFORD'S MAGIC (36)** D Skelton 8 11-12	T Durrell	115
2	658-132	● **KALHANDRION (13)** R Hobson 6 11-10	C Maggs(5)	★116
3	334-4F4	**KADJAR DES MOTTES (45) (F)** D McCain 6 11-8	T Gillard	110
4	9122P7/	**FLEMENSTIDE (1090)** T Faulkner 11 11-7	C Bewley	–
5	L-28L7L	**HALPHA SOLEIL (57)** M Hammond 9 11-2	B Hughes	108

TONGUE STRAP: No. 2 CHEEK PIECES: No. 5.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 4, 5.

SP FORECAST: 6-5 Mumford's Magic, 11-8 Kalhandrion, 6 Kadjar Des Mottes, 20 Halpha Soleil, 25 Flemenstide.

3.35 VIRGIN BET HANDICAP CHASE (GBB RACE)
£4,700 (4) 2m 4f 115yds (8)

1	20L-3L3	**GENTLEMAN BILL (41)** O Greenall & J Guerriero 8 12-2	Craig Nichol	124
2	L222-23	**BUSTY BOY (85) (F)** D Bourke 9 11-12	C Bewley	123
3	310P-3P	**THE WINSLOW BOY (24)** T Symonds 7 11-6	B Poste	120
4	11/P-PP6	**WILLIAM OF YORK (41) (C,D)** R Menzies 10 11-4	R Chapman	115
5	6/4F1-L1	● **ANOTHER FINE MESS (40) (T)** J Scott 7 11-2	B Carver	–
6	P432-LP	**CLONAKILTY (12)** Lizzie Quinlan 9 11-1	Sean Quinlan	★127
7	11-4616	**CUBAN COURT (19) (C)** N King 8 10-10	J Quinlan	121
8	316-752	**EMPTY NEST (21)** M Walford 8 10-3	J Hamilton	125

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 4, 6, 7, 8 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 HOOD: No. 5.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 5, 2, 6, 1, 4.

SP FORECAST: 3 Gentleman Bill, 7-2 Busty Boy, 4 Empty Nest, Another Fine Mess, 7 Cuban Court, 12 The Winslow Boy, 16 William Of York, 33 Clonakilty.

4.10 VIRGIN BET MARES' HANDICAP HURDLE
£4,066 (4) 2m 3f 88yds (6)

1	P352/14	**LETS GO TO VEGAS (35) (D)** A Ralph 8 11-7	C Gethings	★116
2	332343	**OCTOBER HILL (19) (T)** D Pipe 6 11-6	R Corcoran(7)	114
3	33-2R31	**SCAVENGERS REIGN (41) (F)** James Owen 6 11-5	A Chadwick(3)	114
4	3/281-	**PURE SEDUCTION (533)** F O'Brien 6 11-3	B Sutton(5)	–
5	2443-U6	● **I AM THE MOON (21) (D)** N & W Twiston-Davies 7 11-3	J Turner(5)	115
6	FPL47/P	**ROCK ON CASSIE (36)** R Armson 10 11-2	P Armson(3)	–

CHEEK PIECES: No. 5.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 3.

SP FORECAST: 6-4 Scavengers Reign, 3 Pure Seduction, 4 October Hill, 6 Lets Go To Vegas, 7 I Am The Moon, 50 Rock On Cassie.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Good to Soft. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Brian Hughes 16% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** N Henderson 22% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 1.15 Pippin's Legend (tongue strap), 3.00 Halpha Soleil (wind surgery), 3.35 Busty Boy (cheek pieces), 12.40 Kilnacarra (wind surgery), New Invention (cheek pieces, tongue strap), Pearl Smoke (cheek pieces, tongue strap), You Did (cheek pieces), Fox Cottage (cheek pieces). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 12.40 Castanea Breeze(hcp hdl). 1.15 Cotton Socks. 1.50 Stanners Glen. 3.00 Kalhandrion(hcp ch). **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Another Fine Mess** (3.35) 256 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 1.15 **Mustang Du Breuil** from Mme G Menato to N Henderson. 1.50 **King Esoteric** from A Fabre in France to D Skelton, **Ribble River** from K Ryan to Lizzie Quinlan. 2.25 **Huffin An A Puffin** from Harry Derham to L Wadham. 3.00 **Flemenstide** from P Nicholls to T Faulkner.

VITAL STATISTICS

IN-FORM TRAINERS (last 10 days) J Snowden 80% (2 wins and 2 places from 5 runners), C Appleby 67% (1/5/9), M Herrington 60% (2/4/10), A King 56% (2/3/9), C Boultbee-Brooks 56% (1/4/9), K R Burke 55% (3/3/11), A Honeyball 50% (2/1/6), B Pauling 50% (3/2/10), D Pipe 50% (1/1/4), J Osborne 50% (2/2/8), Jack Jones 50% (1/1/4), N Henderson 50% (3/4/14).
IN-FORM JOCKEYS Fern O'Brien 75% (1 wins and 2 places from 4 runners), Kevin Brogan 69% (5/4/13), Nico De Boinville 67% (1/3/6), Tom Cannon 62% (4/1/8), Oliver Stammers 60% (1/2/5), Kielan Woods 57% (2/2/7), James Bowen 53% (3/5/15), Dylan Hogan 50% (1/2/6), Freddie Keighley 50% (1/2/6), Philip Armson 50% (1/1/4), Theo Gillard 50% (1/2/6).

HOOF PRINT

WATERLOGGING claimed tomorrow's all-chase Grand Military Gold Cup card at Sandown Park after an 8am inspection yesterday.

Having staged racing in testing conditions on Saturday, further heavy rain in the interim has left clerk of the course Andrew Cooper with no choice but to call the meeting off.

LINGFIELD SKYSPORTSRACING

THE SCOUT

1.35	Bridge	3.20	Big City Roller
2.10	Big Ticket	3.55	Getaway With You
2.45	Largy Go	4.30	El Rojo Grande

1.35 HANDICAP HURDLE
£3,248 (Class 5) 2m (6 declared)

1	F21P-4L	**A MERE BAGATELLE (14)** James Owen 9 12-0	L Saunders	★108
2	3372/2L	● **BRIDGE (25)** G & J Moore 6 11-10	R Hargreaves(6)	103
3	P5-4644	**RAFFLES NOBU (17)** Nick Scholfield 6 11-7	F Keighley	106
4	LL7363	**ASK PETER (2)** A Honeyball 7 10-10	J Robottom(8)	105
5	PPLPL-2	**TOMMY DILLION (266) (C&D)** R Rowe 10 10-2	O Palmer	97
6	323-L56	**SAWPIT SIENNA (19) (D)** S Drinkwater 11 10-2	Murray Dodd	99

BLINKERS: Nos. 3, 6 VISOR: No. 1 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 3, 4, 6.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 2, 3, 6, 5.

SP FORECAST: 13-8 Raffles Nobu, 5-2 Bridge, 9-2 Tommy Dillion, 7 A Mere Bagatelle, 10 Ask Peter, 14 Sawpit Sienna.
2025: Double Oban 5-11-12, Lewis Saunders(3) 4-1 (O Murphy), 8 ran.

2.10 ATTHERACES.COM MAIDEN HURDLE
£5,446 (4) 2m 3f 110yds (6)

1	122P	● **BIG TICKET (48)** N & W Twiston-Davies 5 11-6	S Twiston-Davies	★127
2	4/1-44	**DROPEMATTHESTATION (56)** B Pauling 6 11-6	K Woods	112
3	08	**JACQUETTA (22)** G & J Moore 5 11-6	C Quinn	76
4	P4/1-P	**LIFETIME IN MILAN (20)** C Gordon 7 11-6	M Goldstein	–
5		**LIL FORTUNE** G Nicholls 5 11-6	H Bannister	–
6	42/3	**MATTHIAS (61)** A Honeyball 7 11-6	R Dingle	111

SP FORECAST: 6-4 Big Ticket, 9-4 Dropematthestation, 11-4 Matthias, 10 Lil Fortune, 25 Lifetime In Milan, 50 Jacquetta.
2025: No corresponding race.

2.45 MAIDEN HURDLE (GBB RACE)
£5,446 (4) 2m (11)

1		**FELIX MAXIMUS** B Case 6 11-7	S Twiston-Davies	–
2	23-129	**HELLO FORTUNE (17)** N Gifford 6 11-7	J M Davies	105
3	6F3-L09	**KENO BLACK (58)** N Mulholland 6 11-7	C O'Farrell	65
4	1-	● **LARGY GO (313)** J & A O'Neill 5 11-7	Jonjo O'Neill Jr	–
5	055	**LE FABULEUX BUCK'S (16)** M Keighley 5 11-7	F Keighley(7)	106
6	4-943	**LORD VIRGINIA (24)** M Keighley 5 11-7	F Gingell	97
7	47-55	**SPANISH DANCER (22)** R Bandey 7 11-7	H Bannister	103
8	432	**WEST ALONG (41)** R Rowe 6 11-7	H Kimber	–
9	LL-	**CRACKER MUDDLE (327)** G & J Moore 8 11-0	R Hargreaves(7)	59
10	U	**COISTY (59)** M Madgwick 4 10-9	M Goldstein	–
11	2	**LOVE YOU BACK (93)** G & J Moore 4 10-9	C Quinn	★107

TONGUE STRAP: No. 1 HOOD: Nos. 3, 7, 11.

SP FORECAST: 11-8 Largy Go, 2 Love You Back, 10 Felix Maximus, West Along, 12 Hello Fortune, Le Fabuleux Buck's, 14 Lord Virginia, 33 Spanish Dancer, 50 Others.
2025: Disco Davis 6-11-8, Harry Skelton 4-5 Fav (D Skelton), 7 ran.

3.20 HANDICAP CHASE (GBB RACE)
£4,700 (4) 2m 4f (4)

1	4112/1-5	● **BIG CITY ROLLER (27) (D)** C Longsdon 8 12-2	Lilly Pinchin	126
2	822-1L1	**OFFICER OF STATE (20)** G & J Moore 7 11-7	C Quinn	★127
3	41-P234	**SHERBORNE (51) (D)** J Tizzard 10 11-7	F Gingell	124
4	4L4-32L	**KOENIGSSTERN (17)** N Gifford 9 10-12	J M Davies	125

TONGUE STRAP: No. 3 CHEEK PIECES: No. 1.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 1, 4, 2, 3.

SP FORECAST: 8-13 Officer Of State, 9-2 Big City Roller, 5 Sherborne, 7 Koenigsstern.
2025: Johnny Jump Up 6-11-10, Niall Houlihan 6-1 (G & J Moore), 6 ran.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Heavy. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Caoilin Quinn 8% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** G & J Moore 14% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 2.45 Love You Back (hood), Keno Black (hood), Felix Maximus (tongue strap), 3.20 Big City Roller (cheek pieces). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 1.35 Raffles Nobu (hcp hdl). 2.45 Love You Back. **LONGEST TRAVELLER: El Rojo Grande** (4.30) 179 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 2.45 **Largy Go** from S Crawford in Ireland to J & A O'Neill.

3.55 HANDICAP HURDLE
£3,248 (5) 2m 7f (7)

1	L-LL731	**OSTERBERG (28)** M Keighley 6 12-0	F Keighley(7)	97
2	PP/441-L	**HOT ROD LINCOLN (54)** Nick Scholfield 10 11-11	K Woods	70
3	111232	● **GETAWAY WITH YOU (18) (C)** D Killahena & G McPherson 8 11-10	D McConville(7)	98
4	B70-32P	**WELCHESTON WARRIER (28)** C Boultbee-Brooks 6 11-9	R Patrick	97
5	78-13LL	**ATLANTIC POWER (41)** Mrs R Ford 6 10-3	H Kimber	★103
6	22/P0PP	**HIGH GROUNDS (51) (D)** R Potter 13 10-2	N Fox(5)	66
7	3/5P5-LL	**ENGAGING SAM (54)** P Butler 9 10-2	C Quinn	92

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 3, 6 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 3, 6, 7.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 3, 6, 2, 1.

SP FORECAST: 2 Osterberg, 5-2 Getaway With You, 11-4 Atlantic Power, 7 Hot Rod Lincoln, 10 Welcheston Warrier, 33 High Grounds, 50 Engaging Sam.
2025: No corresponding race.

4.30 ATTHERACES.COM HANDICAP CHASE
£3,248 (5) 2m (5)

1	L44-4UL	**DESERT HALO (17)** R Bandey 7 12-0	H Bannister	66
2	L31-244	**BOBBI'S BEAUTY (36) (C&D)** M Keighley 8 12-0	F Keighley(7)	★104
3	PF1L-6P	**ANGEL'S DREAM (25) (C&D)** G & J Moore 8 10-13	C Quinn	69
4	2-25211	● **EL ROJO GRANDE (6) (D)** Katy Price 9 10-9	Sean Houlihan	100
5	798683	**CHOSEN BAE (10)** R Potter 7 10-2	N Fox(5)	–

TONGUE STRAP: No. 5 CHEEK PIECES: No. 3 HOOD: No. 5.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 3, 2, 5, 4.

SP FORECAST: 8-13 El Rojo Grande, 5 Bobbi's Beauty, 13-2 Chosen Bae, 10 Desert Halo, Angel's Dream.
2025: No corresponding race.

GOSSIP FROM THE GALLOPS

Newmarket: SCAVENGERS REIGN (4.10 Doncaster)
Lambourn: PAGGANE (2.00 Huntingdon)
Cotswolds: LARGY GO (2.45 Lingfield)
Midlands: UP THE MONK (4.25 Southwell)

SOUTHWELL SKYSPORTSRACING

3.50 BETMGM.CO.UK HANDICAP
£3,140 (Class 6) 1m 13yds (12 declared)

1	(10) 572-13/0	**FORCE OF HONOUR (13) (D)** I Furtado 4 9-9	J Hart	34
2	(12) 466-145	**MOYOWASI (14) (C)** I Williams 4 9-9	E Greatrex	65
3	(8) 2362-16	**SCENARIO (24)** A Carroll 4 9-8	M Ghiani	65
4	(5) 9770-22	**ROARING RALPH (16) (C,D,F)** M Dods 6 9-8	L Edmunds	67
5	(6) 0366-22	**AMARACHI (13) (F)** J Parr 4 9-8	L Morris	64
6	(7) 533-742	● **VOLENDAM (7)** A Carroll 4 9-6	Jack Doughty	65
7	(9) 3035L5-	**LAW DEGREE (38) (D)** T Easterby 4 9-6	S B Kirrane	66
8	(1) L207-3L	**SOVEREIGN CLASS (23)** G Tuer 4 9-6	O Stammers	62
9	(3) 8629-LO	**WAR MEMORIAL (16)** L Mullaney 5 9-4	A Elliott	★69
10	(11) 5556-97	**CARIDA (12)** S G West 4 9-3	A Brookes	64
11	(2) 713753-	**STARSHOT (128)** L Mullaney 6 9-2	D E Hogan	62
12	(4) 03907-6	**BOUJEE GOLD (17) (D)** A Carroll 7 9-0	W Carson	63

BLINKERS: No. 4 VISOR: No. 1 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 7, 12 HOOD: No. 10.

SP FORECAST: 4 Roaring Ralph, 9-2 Amarachi, 5 Moyowasi, 6 Scenario, Volendam, 10 Starshot, 12 Boujee Gold, Law Degree, 14 Others.
2025: Northern Cracksman 4-9-5, Billy Loughnane 11-4 JtFav (L Mullaney), drawn (8), 10 ran.

4.25 MAKE THE MOVE TO MIDNITE CLASSIFIED STKS
£3,140 (6) 6f 16yds (12)

1	(1)	67-53L1	**UP THE MONK (7) (C&D)** M Appleby 4 10-0	Mason Paetel(5)	54
2	(9)	L99-243	**AUTUMN ANGEL (14) (C&D)** A Carroll 7 9-9	Jack Doughty	56
3	(2)	26L9-6L	**BELLA LOVE (14)** I Furtado 4 9-9	J Hart	52
4	(12)	357-L97	**BENEFICIARY (12) (C&D)** L Bailey 7 9-9	B Garritty	53
5	(6)	90806-5	● **CAUSIN A COMMOTION (9) (D)** N Wilson 4 9-9	S B Kirrane	46
6	(11)	568-216	**DUBAI MAGIC (7) (D)** M Crawley 4 9-9	L Morris	57
7	(7)	3492-50	**GLENDOWN (58) (C&D)** T Easterby 6 9-9	D Fentiman	58
8	(8)	9/003-55	**ISLA BELLA (14) (D)** Joey Ramsden 4 9-9	L Edmunds	59
9	(3)	0106-34	**KORROOR (12) (D)** J Camacho 5 9-9	T Kiely-Marshall(5)	54
10	(5)	333-258	**SUPERIOR COUNCIL (13) (D) (T)** I Jardine 7 9-9	D E Hogan	★60
11	(10)	60L8-86	**THE CUTEST (20)** D Shaw 5 9-9	D Keenan	53
12	(4)	L-5L	**TROUBLE IN CHICAGO (12)** I Furtado 4 9-9	Elle-May Croot(5)	33

BLINKERS: Nos. 4, 10 VISOR: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 9 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 3, 7, 10
CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 5, 6, 7 HOOD: No. 11.

SP FORECAST: 11-4 Up The Monk, 9-2 Autumn Angel, 5 Korroor, 6 Dubai Magic, 8 Superior Council, 12 The Cutest, 14 Isla Bella, Bella Love, 16 Others.
2025: Neptune Legend 6-9-9, Rossa Ryan 15-8 Fav (A Carroll), drawn (7), 9 ran.

5.00 BETMGM HANDICAP 3YO
£4,972 (4) 6f 16yds (5)

1	(3)	5421-42	**BAKER BLUE (13) (C&D)** D Cunha 9-11	L Morris	89
2	(1)	731 7-	**ROMEO MONTAGUE (111) (D)** R Spencer 9-1	G Wood	82
3	(4)	43-1	**MR JUGGLES (14) (C&D)** M Appleby 8-12	R Havlin	87
4	(2)	L2-31	● **ALLEGRINO (15) (F)** A Balding 8-6	N Currie	★91
5	(5)	380551-	**MUST BE TEN (37) (D)** J Osborne 8-4	S D Bowen	87

BLINKERS: No. 5.

SP FORECAST: 15-8 Allegrino, 3 Mr Juggles, 4 Baker Blue, 5 Must Be Ten, 6 Romeo Montague.
2025: No corresponding race.

THE SCOUT

3.50	Volendam	6.30	Moon Over The Sea
4.25	Causin A Commotion	7.00	Aisling Oscar
5.00	Allegrino	7.30	ASIAN JOURNEY (nap)
5.30	Shabab Al Ahli	8.00	How's The Guvnor
6.00	Argentum		

5.30 NOVICE STAKES (GBB/GBBPLUS RACE) 3YO
£6,480 (3) 1m 3f 23yds (4)

1	(4) 2	**ASIA FORCE (27)** K R Burke 9-7	S James	★79
2	(1)	**PATIENT GAME** E Bethell 9-7	C Rodriguez	–
3	(3)	● **SHABAB AL AHLI (F)** C Appleby 9-7	C Planas(3)	–
4	(2) 6	**GLAMEROUS (17)** M Attwater 9-2	W Carson	58

SP FORECAST: Evens Asia Force, 6-5 Shabab Al Ahli, 8 Patient Game, 66 Glamerous.
2025: No corresponding race.

6.00 HANDICAP (DIV 1)
£3,140 (6) 1m 4f 14yds (11)

1	(5)	32L33-8	**LEDNIKOV (19) (C&D)** I Furtado 8 9-9	Elle-May Croot(5)	64
2	(8)	2606-42	**NIGHT BEAR (14) (C&D)** A Carroll 9 9-8	W Carson	64
3	(4)	3548-53	**HALIPHON (16) (D)** I Williams 9 9-6	E Greatrex	★69
4	(1)	2/3485-4	**ROSCO ROGERS (19)** T Vaughan 4 9-6	S B Kirrane	62
5	(10)	4439-61	**HAVACHOC (20) (D)** P Morris 4 9-5	P Bradley	61
6	(11)	70/0OL-6	**ABU ROYAL (14)** L Morgan 6 9-4	S D Bowen	63
7	(2)	D709-54	**BROADSTONE (14)** J Norton 4 9-0	P Mulrennan	62
8	(6)	64363-3	● **ARGENTUM (22)** M Crawley 4 9-0	L Morris	65
9	(9)	5L87-L9	**STONEACRE (14)** S Dixon 6 9-0	K O'Neill	59
10	(7)	8L97/9-0	**EASTER SUNDAE (14)** J Wainwright 7 9-0	Joanna Mason	53
11	(3)	L077-	**ANGELARDO (119)** L Bailey 4 8-12	W Pyle(3)	55

BLINKERS: Nos. 1, 8 VISOR: Nos. 2, 3 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 4, 7.

SP FORECAST: 2 Havachoc, 7-2 Night Bear, 6 Haliphon, 7 Argentum, 8 Broadstone, 12 Lednikov, Abu Royal, 14 Rosco Rogers, 33 Others.
2025: Lednikov 7-9-0, Elle-May Croot(5) 16-1 (I Furtado), drawn (9), 9 ran.

6.30 HANDICAP (DIV 2)
£3,140 (6) 1m 4f 14yds (11)

1	(4)	4836-19	● **MOON OVER THE SEA (24) (C,D)** A Carroll 7 9-9	M Ghiani	64
2	(8)	L585-U1	**SMOKEY MALONE (16) (C&D)** J & S Birkett 8 9-7	D E Hogan	62
3	(11)	6/8048-	**SOME BOY ME (J6)** T Easterby 4 9-6	J Dickson(7)	61
4	(10)	4075-12	**DUCHESS (22) (C)** J Berry 7 9-5	G Mangan	65
5	(6)	702341-	**FREE PIC (J87) (D)** J Parkinson & S Smith 5 9-4	A Mullen	★66
6	(9)	5569-9	**NYMPHAEA (22)** J Candlish 4 9-4	D Keenan	62
7	(2)	6L870-5	**BUSBY (26) (C&D)** P Kirby 11 9-0	C Hardie	63
8	(1)	761970-	**YAKHABAR (188) (D)** L Bailey 7 9-0	B Garritty	64
9	(7)	54-56L5	**RAMPANT (17)** P Morris 6 9-0	T Kiely-Marshall(5)	59
10	(5)	975/85L-	**APACHE EAGLE (J35)** J Bedi 5 9-0	Kaiya Fraser	48
11	(3)	LL80-35	**KARISMATIQUE (22) (F)** J S Moore 4 8-12	K O'Neill	59

BLINKERS: Nos. 2, 11 VISOR: No. 7 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 4, 8, 10
CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 6, 8, 9, 10.

SP FORECAST: 11-4 Smokey Malone, 7-2 Duchess, 5 Moon Over The Sea, 6 Free Pic, 7 Karismatique, 12 Busby, 14 Nymphaea, 20 Yakhabar, Some Boy Me, 25 Others.
2025: Harry The Haggler 5-9-9, Rossa Ryan 7-4 Fav (D Loughnane), drawn (3), 8 ran.

7.00 BETMGM'S GOLDEN GOALS HANDICAP
£3,659 (5) 1m 13yds (11)

1	(4)	93714-3	**STUDIOUS (34) (D)** M Loughnane 4 9-9	J Mitchell	82
2	(5)	127L5-	**CAMINO DEL RAY (200)** J Camacho 4 9-8	T Kiely-Marshall(5)	82
3	(1)	22132-8	**SHAW PARK (6) (C)** S Dixon 7 9-7	K O'Neill	80
4	(2)	111-111	● **AISLING OSCAR (14) (D,F)** A Keatley 5 9-7	O McSweeney	81
5	(7)	122-533	**BAJAN BANDIT (14) (C&D)** P Morris 6 9-7	P Bradley	81
6	(3)	7535-7L	**EVE'S BOY (23)** M Dods 4 9-6	P Mulrennan	★86
7	(10)	2305-34	**FOREST CAPER (13)** D O'Meara 5 9-6	Jason Watson	81
8	(9)	79L7-L1	**SOAMES FORSYTE (19) (C&D)** M Herrington 7 9-4	D E Hogan	80
9	(8)	8110L-9	**FINN IRONSIDE (32)** I Furtado 5 9-2	Elle-May Croot(5)	83
10	(11)	2271 67-	**EVOCATIVE SPARK (73)** J Riches 7 8-13	C Hutchinson	80
11	(6)	0221-5-1	**MARRY THE NIGHT (13) (C&D)** T Easterby 4 8-12	S B Kirrane	81

VISOR: No. 10 TONGUE STRAP: No. 9 CHEEK: Nos. 6, 8, 11 HOOD: No. 7.

SP FORECAST: 13-8 Aisling Oscar, 9-2 Marry The Night, 5 Soames Forsyte, 10 Studious, 12 Forest Caper, Bajan Bandit, 14 Eve's Boy, 20 Finn Ironside, Shaw Park, Camino Del Ray, 25 Evocative Spark.
2025: Joolianoss 4-9-4, Joe Leavy(3) 7-5 Fav (H Evans), drawn (5), 10 ran.

7.30 BETMGM HANDICAP (DIV 1)
£4,711 (6) 7f 14yds (12)

1	(10)	0523-71	**CILL MOCHEALLOG (14) (C&D)** D Ivory 5 9-9	R Havlin	74
2	(4)	98453-6	**KING DAVID (17) (D)** G Kelleway 5 9-9	L Morris	74
3	(11)	136-316	**NO KNEE NEVER (5) (C&D,F)** James Owen 5 9-8	S James	74
4	(9)	4274LL-	**MINI MAC (154)** Jessica Macey 4 9-8	L Edmunds	67
5	(1)	643421-	**REGINALD CHARLES (55) (C&D)** G Oldroyd 6 9-7	P J McDonald	73
6	(2)	L94-152	**FO

BOBBY IN A BOBSLEIGH

Ex-copper Greenwood's out to crack a cold case with four-man unit

BY **JAMES REID**

FROM Bobby to bobsleigh, former policeman Leon Greenwood is living his dream after risking it all to reach the Winter Olympics.

The 28-year-old quit his job with Thames Valley Police in 2022 after he was spotted at a talent ID day – and is now in Cortina eyeing an Olympic medal.

Greenwood was once a budding track sprinter until doctors told him he would never compete again after a serious ankle injury.

Instead, he turned to a career fighting crime but never gave up hope of reaching the Olympics, and has now bagged a spot in Brad Hall's four-man sled that is expected to contend for a medal.

"I loved being in the police, but my dream was to be an Olympian and to do that, you can't do both if you're doing a night shift. This is a dream come true," he said.

"I knew people that did bobsleigh and I thought I would see if I was any good at it. I am fast, I am powerful, let's see.

"I always believed I would be an Olympian, whatever path. When I first started bobsleigh four years ago, I said to my partner I am going to do this. I quit my job to do this."

Life on the bobsleigh circuit also means plenty of other sacrifices for Greenwood, including time away from partner Nicole and two-year-old daughter Aria.

It has meant plenty of night shifts when back at home, as well as a renewed purpose when out on the ice.

"When you have a kid, you really want to be a role model and I feel like I am doing just that," he added.

"She doesn't understand what's going on right now but hopefully when she is older she can really see the hard work and what it takes to become an Olympian.

"I want to inspire the next generation, try to share my story to make it easier for them to be opportunity takers. That's what I am, an opportunity taker. I say yes until I can't say yes anymore."

Greenwood will team up with Taylor Lawrence, Greg Cackett, and pilot Hall in the four-man event, which takes place on the last weekend of the Games.

The squad have had a disappointing season but Greenwood, born and bred in Batley, is confident they are building back to their best.

"We are really focused, really excited," he said. "We would have liked this season to have gone better, but we are still confident.

"It's the Olympics, the only thing that matters are the people on the day who do the job.

"We just need to bring our A-game and I have no doubt in our minds that we are going to."

● *TNT Sports on discovery+ will be the go-to destination in the UK to watch everything of Milano Cortina 2026 live all in one place, with over 850 hours of action from every sport, venue, and medal event.*

Your guide to the Games - all you need to know about the Winter Olympics. Order now by scanning the QR code or by visiting reachshops.co.uk/winterolympics. Also available at participating retailers.

PUSHING THE LIMIT Britain's four-man bob team have a medal shot

ARE GB'S NEW HELMETS A RIDGE TOO FAR?

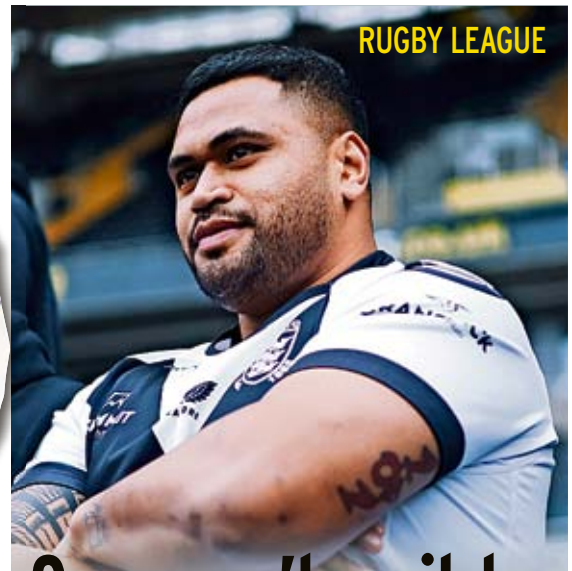
GREAT BRITAIN'S hopes of winning multiple skeleton medals at the Winter Olympics have been hit by a potential helmet ban just days before the start of competition.

The British Bobsleigh and Skeleton Association (BBSA) has lodged an appeal with the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) against a decision by the International Bobsleigh and Skeleton Federation (IBSF) to outlaw the team's new helmets, which feature aerodynamic ridges, that they were set to unveil for the Games.

A CAS panel is due to hold a hearing today. The BBSA will revert to the equipment used during their highly successful World Cup season (right) if it goes against them. Ice dancer Lilah Fear and men's bobsleigh pilot Brad Hall have been selected as Team GB's flagbearers for tomorrow's opening ceremonies.

❑GREAT BRITAIN made a winning start in the mixed doubles curling, as Bruce Mouat and Jen Dodds edged out Norway 8-6.

RUGBY LEAGUE



Sam can't wait to Slam into his new challenge at Hull

BY **JAMES SMAILES**

NEW Hull FC signing Sam Lisone says he is sick of bashing up his team-mates and is ready to take his pre-season frustrations out on Super League.

The 31-year-old former Samoa prop is a new addition at the MKM Stadium this season, having made the switch from Leeds Rhinos, where he spent the past three campaigns.

'Slammin' Sam (above) arrives as arguably the headline recruit for the Black and Whites, boosting the punch to a pack that has also added James Bell and Harvie Hill alongside the likes of big hitters Herman Ese'ese, Liam Knight and John Asiata.

FC's new-look pack have spent the winter tearing into each other at training and finally got a chance to have a run out against Wigan Warriors on Sunday in a pre-season friendly.

Next up is Salford in the Challenge Cup tomorrow night as John Cartwright's men officially get their competitive 2026 season up and running.

Starting at Salford in the cup and then at home to promoted Bradford Bulls next week in the Super League opener, Lisone cannot wait to finally get his FC career up and running after a long off season.

"It's been a good pre-season," he said.

"Obviously, coming to a new club, you know pre-season is where it builds brotherhood, where you start to get to know your mates and work hard with your mates. So, it has been good.

"But I think we are ready now to get started properly and for round one.

"The boys are sick of bashing each other, I know I am, we want to bash someone else.

"When you're a player you just know when it's time to play and when you're ready to play. We're ready!"

Hull FC had to watch on through gritted teeth last season as neighbours Hull KR conquered all in front of them to win the treble last season.

Now, as they get ready to begin a second full season under new owners and head coach John Cartwright (inset), there is a growing belief FC, who finished seventh in Super League last season – their highest finish since 2020 – can challenge for honours themselves this year.

Pointing to the signings made, Lisone shares that belief as he explains his excitement to get started at his new home.

"It is exciting," Lisone added, when asked about the season ahead.

"You look at the boys we have and there's a bit of everything.

"We've got great youth, old heads, new arrivals, so it's just exciting to get started and see where we are.

"I heard a lot of good stories about our fans and obviously fans play a big part home and away. So yeah, I'm really excited about experiencing that. I can't wait."

WORLD OF SPORT

Newey flat out to get new Aston car ready

BY **DANIEL MOXON**

FORMULA ONE

ADRIAN NEWEY admits Aston Martin have been playing catch-up with their rivals.

The team will race their first car created by Newey this year, after snapping up the legendary designer following his departure from Red Bull.

NEWEY

Because of the period of gardening leave he had to serve, Newey could not begin work at the team's high-tech Silverstone factory until last March.

That, combined with the wait for their new wind tunnel to come online and other factors, meant Aston Martin barely made it to last week's Barcelona shakedown for some limited running. And Newey said: "2026 is probably the first time in the history of Formula One that the power unit regulations and chassis regulations have changed at the same time.

"It's a big challenge for all the teams, but perhaps more so for us. The AMR Technology Campus is still evolving, the wind tunnel wasn't on song until April, and I only joined the team last March, so we started from behind.

"We didn't get a model of the 2026 car into the wind tunnel until mid-April.

"That put us on the back foot by about four months, meaning a very compressed research and design cycle. The car only came together at the last minute."

THE BIG PICTURE

PRICE TAG: Mexico's Santiago Chavez is run out against Puerto Rico

Ronnie marches on

SNOOKER

RONNIE O'SULLIVAN edged a scrappy encounter against Joe O'Connor in the first round of the World Grand Prix in Hong Kong.

The Rocket hit three half-century breaks on his way to a 5-3 win.

World No.1 Judd Trump was dumped out by Yuan Sijun, who set the tone for a 5-2 triumph with a 103-break in the opening frame.

Shaun Murphy, John Higgins and Neil Robertson all also exited.

Murphy was soundly beaten 5-1 by Pang Junxu, Higgins went down 5-3 to Zhao Xintong, while defending champion Robertson lost 5-1 to Jak Jones.

1. Which 1991 England Test debutant, who died in December, became Glamorgan's youngest captain in 1986?
2. Who did Luke Littler beat in the PDC World Darts Championship semi-finals last month?
3. Which Harlequins trio each scored a brace in the 2025-2026 Investec Champions Cup home win against Bayonne?
4. Which English golfer won the 1969 Open Championship at Royal Lytham & St Annes?
5. Which Hungarian footballer was the top goal scorer in the 1954 World Cup with 11 goals?
6. Who was the first post-war Wimbledon men's singles champion in 1946?
7. Which Ethiopian runner won women's World Cross Country Championship titles in 1996, 1999 and 2001?
8. Which American boxer was the first heavyweight to regain the title of world champion after losing it?
9. Which British-based team won the championship game of the World League of American Football in 1991?
10. Who, in 1981, became the first woman to participate in the Boat Race?

10 to tackle
RATINGS
0-3 Oh dear
4-6 Small beer
7-9 So near
10 Sporting Seer

ANSWERS: 1 Hugh Morris. 2 Ryan Searle. 3 Will Porter, Sam Riley and Kieran Treadwell. 4 Tony Jacklin. 5 Sandor Kocsis. 6 Yvon Petra. 7 Gete Wami. 8 Floyd Patterson. 9 London Monarchs. 10 Sue Brown.

'Harry was trying to look after his mates'

McCULLUM BACKS BROOK & CO OVER 'MISTAKE' AT NIGHTCLUB

BROOKING NO CRITICISM
McCullum has defended captain Brook (bottom) after an incident at a nightclub in New Zealand

FROM **SCOTT HUNT** in Kandy

BRENDON McCULLUM has branded the criticism of England's behaviour as "out of order" as he launched a staunch defence of Harry Brook.

News emerged at the end of the 4-1 series defeat in the Ashes last month that white-ball captain Brook had been involved in an altercation with a nightclub bouncer on the preceding tour of New Zealand.

Brook began the tour of Sri Lanka by apologising and insisted he was alone, but then had to release a statement to admit that was not true after it transpired that Jacob Bethell and Josh Tongue were also fined.

The incident has dominated the trip to Sri Lanka and there has been fierce criticism of Brook and the management for attempting to cover up all players involved.

But head coach McCullum said: "I don't think there was any need to release the details until it was obviously found in the media.

"The boys have made a mistake. They're not the first ones that have ever done it, they won't be the last ones.

"The process was done internally at the ECB, which we were all a part of. They've been severely reprimanded. And, to be honest, I find it quite annoying that we keep going on and on about it.

"Brooky obviously was trying to protect other players when he made that comment. Harry's trying to look after his mates.

"He is a strong leader, he's a young man but he's got a very good head on his shoulders.

"I know people will say he's not that clever. I couldn't disagree with that more. He wears his intelligence lightly and he's someone that they play for in their dressing room."

The ECB is investigating the events of the winter after a string of incidents – including Ben Duckett (above) being filmed seemingly worse for wear during a Noosa trip which was accused of resembling a "stag do".

"I don't think the boys went overboard at all," McCullum added. "In fact, I thought a lot of the pile-on for it was completely out of line.

"Noosa is where people go to retire. It was being made out as this big stag-do place. It couldn't be further from that.

"If we wanted a stag do and we wanted a lair up, we would have gone to Gold Coast."

A midnight curfew has been introduced for the players while in Sri Lanka and at the upcoming T20 World Cup and McCullum laughed off the idea he would be opposed to it.

The England coach said: "The day that I walked into the job, the first thing I said to these boys is, 'Don't do anything that lands you on the front page of the paper and nothing good ever happens after midnight'.

"The misconception out there is that I run this loose ship where I want everyone out on the p*ss all the time and don't give a hoot about cricket.

"It couldn't be further from the truth. I'm fiercely determined, I'm fiercely competitive. We're going to have a good time, we're going to grow, we're going to enjoy ourselves.

"I want the best for these guys. I want to make sure that we look after them."

In the Hunt for a perfect 10 at showdown

FROM **KEITH WEBSTER** in San Francisco

NFL: SUPER BOWL

HUNTER HENRY hopes Sunday will complete a perfect 10 years in the NFL as he contests his first Super Bowl.

The tight end played five years with the Chargers before moving to New England for the past five seasons at the Patriots. He had seven touchdown catches during the season and one in the play-offs as New England marched to Sunday's showdown with the Seattle Seahawks in California.

And after doing his time and waiting his turn for a shot at the big one, Henry (left) is thrilled that the chance has finally come at the age of 31.

"We've got a few guys that have been here before," he said.

"But it's special to do it with guys who have never been here and who have put a lot of work in. I played 10 years in this league and never really sniffed it and to be here is pretty special.

"This is what we all work for. When you put on a helmet when you're five or six, you dream of playing in the Super Bowl.

"You work year round to be at this spot and we're here so I'm just excited for the opportunity."

Draper's finally ready to return after bruising spell on the sidelines

JACK JUMPS BACK IN

FEELING SWELL Draper leaps into the sea in Oslo ahead of his comeback

BY **ANDY SIMS**

JACK DRAPER is confident his fitness problems are behind him as he begins his comeback after a seven-month injury nightmare.

The British No.1 has played just one singles match since Wimbledon last year due to bone bruising in his left arm.

He beat Federico Agustin Gomez in the first round of the US Open before withdrawing from the tournament, and was also forced to miss last month's Australian Open.

Instead of the sunshine of Melbourne, Draper is returning to action for Great Britain in their Davis Cup qualifying tie against Norway in snowy Oslo.

"I feel good," said Draper. "Obviously, it's been a long time since I've been able to be on the match court.

"I played a bit at the US Open, but it just wasn't anywhere near where I needed to be to come back to professional tennis and in that time, it's been really difficult, a very complex injury.

"Multiple people have had this one and it's not straightforward at all. But I've learnt a lot about myself, learnt a lot about my body, my character and what I need moving forward. So I'm really happy to be back competing again and healthy."

The Davis Cup provides something of a soft launch for Draper, who skipped the first Grand Slam of the year Down Under as he did not feel ready for the rigours of five-set matches.

Norway's top player, three-time Grand Slam finalist and world No.12 Casper Ruud, withdrew yesterday to remain on paternity leave with his wife and new-born daughter, so Draper will face world No.313 Viktor Durasovic in the opening singles rubber this afternoon.

"It's not easy when you're out with an injury for a long time to come back and to feel settled in straight away," added Draper, 24.

"So to be here at the Davis Cup and have that camaraderie and have just a bit of company around you while you're getting back into things is really nice for me."

Great Britain captain Leon Smith has been able to select his strongest side in Scandinavia with Draper, Cameron Norrie (inset) and Jacob Fearnley joined by Wimbledon doubles champions Lloyd Glasspool and Julian Cash.

British No.2 Norrie will face 19-year-old former Wimbledon juniors champion Nicolai Budkov Kjaer, ranked No.133, in the second singles rubber.

Smith said: "Everyone's delighted to be here, very committed, very pumped to play for their country.

"We've obviously got our three top-ranked singles players all together and a really strong doubles team as well.

"The atmosphere is great. Everyone always enjoys this. We can't always get everyone together, such is the nature of the calendar."

The winners of the tie will progress to a second qualifying round in September vying for place at the finals in Italy in November.

RISE Littler has been called 'best ever' by Humphries

Littler: I can't take Power yet

DARTS: PREMIER LGE

BY **DAMIAN SPELLMAN**

LUKE LITTLER has conceded he might one day become the best darts player the world has ever seen, but not until he has eclipsed Phil Taylor's glittering list of achievements.

World No.2 Luke Humphries described the 19-year-old double world champion as "the greatest darts player that ever lived" after losing to him in the final of the World Masters last Sunday.

Littler was quick to insist that was not the case and 16-time world champion Taylor would always occupy that elevated status.

Littler, who launches his bid to regain the Premier League title against Gian van Veen in Newcastle this evening, said: "It's just he [Taylor, below] is the greatest, unless I go on and win 16 Worlds and 16 Matchplays.

"Get 17, one over him, then yes, I'll be the best. But until someone breaks his records, he'll always be the best."

Speaking at the same event, Humphries qualified his assessment of Littler, but stood by his estimation of his precocious talent.

Asked if his comments on stage in the immediate aftermath of defeat had been fuelled by emotion, Humphries, who takes on Gerwyn Price at the Utilita Arena, said: "Phil having achieved so much, it's kind of harsh to not call him the greatest, so maybe I used the wrong term.

"But I definitely stand by the fact he [Littler] is the most talented darts player ever, not just his ability to throw good darts, it's his temperament, it's his way of being so good under pressure and to bounce back – all the credentials.

"But that's not me saying I'm going to accept defeat every time. I'm still up for it, still willing to challenge him, still going to push him all the way, but he's definitely the most talented darts player ever."

Shaken Raducanu stirs to snuff out fears of upset

EMMA RADUCANU recovered from 5-0 down in the first set to beat Kaja Juvan 7-5 6-1 and progress to the quarter-finals of the Transylvania Open.

The No.1 seed, who is playing her first tournament since splitting from coach Francis Roig in the wake of her early exit from the Australian Open, won 10 straight games and 13 of the final 14 to avoid an embarrassing upset.

Her Slovenian opponent stormed into a commanding lead, with Raducanu (left) seemingly surprised by the level of the world No.97 and appearing to be suffering discomfort in her leg.

She hit back to level the set before holding serve, then breaking Juvan to edge it. Thereafter it was straightforward to set up a last-eight meeting with qualifier Maja Chwalinska.

Raducanu said: "At least I can say I was trying to play on my terms. That was the goal for me. I don't think I've ever come back from 5-0 down before." Katie Boulter is through to the last eight at the Ostrava Open after a 6-2 6-2 win against Viktorija Golubic.

Sonay Kartal enjoyed a stroke of luck as she made it through to the Abu Dhabi Open quarter-finals.

Kartal was due to play world No.9 Belinda Bencic, but the Swiss withdrew with illness and Kartal beat lucky loser Renata Zarazua 6-0 6-3.

Macleod set for 'war zone'

WALES flanker Josh Macleod says Saturday's Six Nations opener against England will resemble a "war zone".

England are expected to begin the tournament with a bang at Twickenham, given the contrasting recent records of the two sides.

Steve Borthwick's men have won 11 consecutive matches, while Wales have remarkably lost 21 of their past 23 Tests, with the only two wins coming against Japan.

England romped to a record 68-14 victory in Cardiff last March, but Macleod (above) insists Wales will meet fire with fire on what would be the 29-year-old's Six Nations debut.

"It would probably feel like going into a war zone," said Scarlets back-rower Macleod.

"I enjoy it, just the physical battle, the confrontation.

"It's the fight that often pulls you out of situations where you're on the back foot.

"There is always that physical edge in Anglo-Welsh matches. Whatever they throw at us, we will be ready."

Macleod has four senior caps, but none so far in European rugby's iconic annual international tournament.

He added: "If it [selection] came, it would be an unbelievable honour and Saturday would be a pretty special occasion for me personally.

"We've got systems in place to deal with certain aspects of the game, but there's a hell of a load of talent in our team as well."

ITV launches in-play ads

BY **JOHN CROSS**

TV bosses are bringing in revolutionary split-screen adverts for the Six Nations.

And ITV's new "creative advertising format" is set to be a template for televised sport in the future.

UK broadcasters have always carried live matches without interruptions, but that will change for tonight's opener between France and Ireland.

ITV will show one advert in each half when there is a convenient break, such as when teams prepare for a scrum.

For 20 seconds, the screen image will be split between live action and an advert. ITV have 10 Six Nations games, including all of England's games, starting with Saturday's clash against Wales.

The split-screen format is common in American sport but ITV insist there are no immediate plans to do the same for this summer's World Cup.

POM SQUAD CAN GRAB THE LIONS' SHARE OF GLORY

Forget the tour curse... England are eyeing Paris title showdown

TIME FOR TAKE-OFF Pollock, Earl and, below, Tom Curry will play key roles

LEADER Ford will guide England at Twickenham

Vintage Ford is a hot Rod for Mitchell

BY **ADAM HATHAWAY**

SCRUM-HALF Alex Mitchell believes England have another Rodri in their side in veteran fly-half George Ford.

Mitchell compared centre and Northampton team-mate Fraser Dingwall to the Manchester City superstar in the last Six Nations and puts Ford in the same bracket.

All three will start against Wales on Saturday and Mitchell says they can make the team purr, like the Spaniard does for Pep Guardiola's title-chasers.

Mitchell said: "[Ford]'s similar to someone like Rodri as well. He gets the team to tick, probably doesn't always do some of the most X-Factor things but behind the scenes, the players within the squad, know how important these players are.

"I think Dingers was a bit annoyed that I called him Rodri. He was Ballon d'Or winner at the time! Players like that who are quality and the glue of the team are massive." Ford will be winning his 106th England cap and will steer the team against a Wales side with nothing to lose.

Mitchell added: "He's a fantastic leader, understands the game really well and his kick strategy knowledge is through the roof.

"I'm always asking him questions and he is really good around that.

"He has been fantastic for however many years."

SPEEDSTER Feyi-Waboso is set to start for England against Wales

BY **ADAM HATHAWAY**

ENGLAND will have to defy history to bring home the Six Nations title – but Steve Borthwick's side have never been in better shape to do it.

England have not won a title since 2020, and have not won a Grand Slam since Dylan Hartley's side triumphed in 2016, rounding off their campaign with a grandstand finish in Paris.

This year they finish off rugby's greatest annual tournament back at Stade de France, on March 14, where Antoine Dupont and co will be waiting, probably with a chance of winning the trophy themselves.

Head coach Borthwick set the tone, uncharacteristically, recently for the whole campaign by saying he wants England fans "flooding over the Channel" for that showdown.

And if England get there with a shot at the title – after negotiating games against Wales, Scotland, Ireland and Italy – that will count as a decent performance in the Six Nations.

If they complete a clean sweep there it will be a massive step forward with the World Cup looming in Australia next year.

But this campaign is the year after a Lions tour, and traditionally that means France win the Six Nations.

Since the game went pro there have been seven Lions tours, from 1997, and in the seven Six Nations following those trips France have lifted five titles, with four Slams, while Ireland have won two.

But England have the ammunition to buck the trend, Lions hangover or no Lions hangover for the dozen players in the squad who were involved in the series win in Australia. In the autumn, Borthwick showcased the strength in depth at his disposal employing his 'Pom Squad' of replacements, such as Ellis Genge, Henry Pollock and Tom Curry, to wreak havoc in the final half an hour.

That also helped them get out of the habit of losing tight games and they are on a run of 11 straight wins.

Of their rivals, France are the bookies' favourites but have lost fly-half Romain Ntamack, meaning the maverick Matthieu Jalibert will pair up with Dupont.

Fabien Galthie, their head coach, has bizarrely axed the brilliant wing Damian Penaud, back row Gregory Alldritt and centre Gael Fickou, who would walk into any of the five other teams.

If those decisions are barmy or brilliant will be tested tonight when France kick off the tournament against Andy Farrell's Ireland in Paris.

Ireland look like they are on the way down with an ageing squad and were humiliated by world champions South Africa in the autumn.

England's biggest Test before France could come in round two when they head to Murrayfield where they have not won since 2020.

Finn Russell and his men have had the hex on their neighbours but are maddeningly inconsistent.

Two years ago they beat England in Edinburgh, then lost to Italy and look set for another middling campaign.

You could write a book about the Welsh woes but if they could nick wins against Italy and Scotland that would be a shot in the arm.

But when it is all over, you fear English fans flooding over to Paris could be disappointed and Dupont will be the man with his mitts on the trophy for the second year in a row.

IT'S GREAT Itoje and co had a perfect run of results last autumn

SAM HAS SIX APPEAL

IRELAND captain Caelan Doris insisted fly-half Sam Prendergast is making progress on his defensive deficiencies as he backed him to shine during the Six Nations.

Prendergast begins the 2026 championship as his country's first choice No.10 after being selected ahead of Jack Crowley and Harry Byrne for tonight's Paris showdown with defending champions France.

The Leinster playmaker, 22, emerged as the frontrunner to become the long-term successor to Johnny Sexton in the autumn of 2024 but was criticised for missed tackles as he and Crowley interchanged last November.

France v Ireland
Tonight, 8.10pm

Back-rower Doris, who plays alongside Prendergast for club and country, said: "Sam's been great. I'm in the same club as him in Leinster and I see day-to-day the work he puts in. Same here in camp. So that side of his game is improving. In terms of his attack, the ceiling is so high for him.

"He can do things that not many people can do at all.

"I've got a lot of faith in him and I'm looking forward to seeing him lead us around tomorrow."

Ireland are back in the French capital for the first time since suffering an agonising 28-24 quarter-final defeat by New Zealand at the 2023 World Cup in former captain Sexton's final match before retirement.

BIG THREAT Prendergast is backed to deliver in the Six Nations

Robinson: Manny in my mould

JASON ROBINSON sees a player cast in his own image as he looks forward to Immanuel Feyi-Waboso lighting up England's Six Nations title challenge.

England assistant coach Kevin Sinfield made the comparison during the autumn, insisting that Feyi-Waboso has the same explosive power and speed as cross-code star Robinson.

And the 2003 World Cup-winner believes the Exeter wing's finishing instincts – he has run in seven tries in 13 appearances – make him an important weapon. Robinson said: "There are a few flyers in the England team but I do love Manny Feyi-Waboso. He's an exciting player and he reminds me a little bit of myself back in the day.

"He's really quick, he's strong, he breaks the tackle and he builds momentum. He certainly can finish and score tries, so he's a key player."

●*Robinson was speaking in support of Greene King's 'Fans Reunited' campaign, which is calling on people to reconnect with old friends during the Six Nations.*

INSIDE SATURDAY

EXPRESS

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Dyche mixed window shop

BY **SARAH CLAPSON**

THE end of the winter transfer window came with mixed feelings for Nottingham Forest.

A midfielder was on their shopping list, while another forward also would not have gone amiss.

When it came to the former, Forest tried for a number of targets – including having three bids rejected for Celtic's Arne Engels – but did not manage to get a deal over the line.

"Some of that news was real, some wasn't – so that's one thing to clear up," head coach Sean Dyche said when quizzed on the interest in Engels (above).

"The balance of the group on the whole is OK. If we could have strengthened [further], we would but it is not easy to get deals over the line."

Calls for EFL to 3UP spot

BY **JOHN CROSS**

EFL bosses are set to discuss the National League's 3Up campaign.

The EFL board is due to meet today with the push for an extra promotion place for non-League clubs. While there is unlikely to be anything formal on the agenda, it could lead to it then being discussed at the all-72 club meeting on Friday, March 6.

The National League has been campaigning for a year to try and increase the relegation and promotion system from two to three clubs.

National League clubs are hugely in favour and it is believed it has some support from EFL clubs.

Farke in good shape after dry January

BOSS DEFENDS LACK OF NEW SIGNINGS

BY **ISAAC JOHNSON**

DANIEL FARKE insists Leeds can avoid Premier League relegation with their squad, refusing to get hung up on the lack of arrivals in the January transfer market.

Leeds, who are six points above the drop zone, were keen on Jorgen Strand Larsen and tabled a £40million bid last week.

But Crystal Palace ultimately won the race on deadline day having offered £8m more for the Norway striker. It means Leeds ended the window with one signing – Facundo Buonanotte (right) on loan.

Supporters have expressed worry over the lack of a back-up centre-forward given Dominic Calvert-Lewin's injury past, while Leeds also look thin on the ground at full-back if either Jayden Bogle or Gabriel Gudmundsson are ruled out for a period of time.

United kept the door open for a back-up left-back, amid the loan exit of Jack Harrison to Fiorentina, while Farke's comments on goalkeepers following Saturday's defeat by Arsenal suggested a new shot-stopper would have been ideal.

Speaking ahead of tomorrow night's crunch relegation clash with Nottingham Forest, Farke said: "Normally, it's a good sign when you don't do much in January, because if you have a look across Europe to all the clubs who are in a good position, you rarely see they do much in January.

"I adapt to the reality I have in this group right now, and I concentrate to give my group all the backing, all my work or my trust, and then I'm also confident we can achieve our goals.

"I won't speak about the details. Because how would my players in the squad right now feel if I tell you today, I would have wished for another whatever?

"They wouldn't feel much trust and that I'm not confident. So all the players who are right now here, they need all my attention. They need all my backing, all my support. My squad has not got weaker."

Leeds were hamstrung by Profit and Sustainability Rules last month, having maxed out their limits over the summer. The £40m tabled for Strand Larsen would have come out of next season's budget.

Farke added: "If we identify a player, position or profile that can make us better, then it's up to other people in our club to decide if it's affordable, because I also fully understand we work with limited resources.

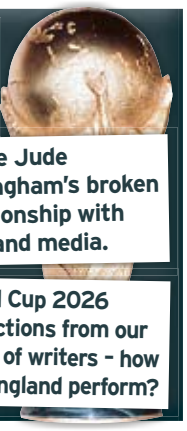
"I've signed a contract here to serve. Of course, I would prefer unlimited resources and to get whatever we want.

"But it's important we are all together, not me versus the board. It's important key figures have their say and agree what to do and not do.

"I adapt to the reality. I am here to back the club."

GIVE THEM A BIG HAND
Farke is happy with his squad despite a lack of new blood

COUNTDOWN TO THE WORLD CUP



It's just over four months until the greatest football festival on the planet kicks off. And Express Football hits the back of the net when it comes to giving you the perfect warm up for the summer. From Jude Bellingham's faltering relationship with the media to our New England Player Ratings weekly series ranking the riders and fallers in boss Thomas Tuchel's plans...

https://www.express.co.uk/sport/football/2165736/make-football-great-again-podcast-2026-World-Cup or scan QR codes

Inside Jude Bellingham's broken relationship with England media.

World Cup 2026 predictions from our panel of writers – how will England perform?

Offer ends 18/02/2026. £20 extra a month, 24-month contract. New 24-month Sky TV contract required (new Sky Q £35.50pm, new Stream or Glass £15pm). Further terms apply.

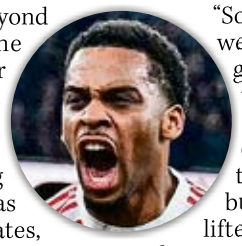
THIRST OF MANY

Timber hopes Carabao glory will give Gunners taste for more trophies

BY **RYAN TAYLOR**

JURRIEN TIMBER insists Arsenal are gunning for Carabao Cup glory – because victory at Wembley would set the tone for more silverware this season.

Kai Havertz's dramatic last-gasp winner to down former club Chelsea put the semi-final tie beyond doubt and clinched the Gunners' place in their first League Cup final since 2018.



For all the good work Mikel Arteta (celebrating Havertz's goal, below) has carried out at the Emirates, he has still only won the FA Cup in 2020 during his six-year reign.

Timber (above) believes Arsenal are now ready to change their destiny, stating: "I think every competition, every cup is different.

"But at the same time, we're in an amazing position. We don't have anything yet but we've put ourselves in an amazing position to win.

"The Carabao Cup final is coming early, so maybe that would be nice for us as a motivation and a boost towards the other cups as well."

Arsenal's recent home performances have been the subject of scrutiny. But Timber was ecstatic that his side were able to grind out victory – even though they were not anywhere near their best.

He continued: "That (winning) is the most important thing, it is not always possible to play your best.

"But I think this team does an amazing job of finding a way to win, no matter what.

"We have done it away at Chelsea, where it is not easy, and then at home as well.

"So it is very deserved that we are going through and going to Wembley together."

Prior to Tuesday evening, Arsenal had lost their past four semi-finals but the curse was finally lifted and their quadruple dream now lives on.

Timber is not willing to take the feat for granted, explaining: "It means a lot, but I think it does to the whole club, to the whole team. I think we appreciate these moments

– me, myself as well. But obviously you want to win the final, so that is the next step.

"We appreciate going to the final. We don't take it for granted. We have an amazing squad and these kinds of opportunities are not easy to have.

"And I think this squad does an amazing job and I am just proud to be part of this team."

Much like match-winner Havertz, Timber knows the pain of enduring a notable injury setback.

The German, who only returned last month after suffering a knee problem on the opening day of the season which required surgery, is now showcasing just how much he has been missed.

The right-back said of his team-mate: "Just his presence within the team makes a big difference, but also on the pitch.

"I think everyone can see his amazing qualities and also everyone can see how happy everyone was for Kai.

"I hope he enjoys this moment, and hopefully there are many more moments like this for him."

SKY'S THE LIMIT Timber dreaming of silverware after seeing off Chelsea

JOY Riccardo Calafiori, Kai Havertz & Odegaard after cup win

ODEGAARD: WE CAN DEAL WITH TITLE HEAT

FROM BACK PAGE

nerves are a part of football. This level you have to just deal with it.

"It [pressure] is something we have to embrace. We've been in this title race now for a lot of years.

"I feel like that's given us more experience and we can use that. Every single season we've grown as a group.

"Every individual has grown more experienced, more mature. And, of course, with the squad we have this year, we feel like we're in a really good place. What I see every single day, that's what gives me and is giving me the confidence that we're going to do it.

"We're in a good position now, and we just push on from here."

Odegaard insists they will not prioritise winning any particular trophy, with the Gunners' last piece of silverware coming in 2020 with the FA Cup.

On Tuesday night they overcame Chelsea to reach the Carabao Cup final and are still in the FA Cup, top of the Premier League by six points and are into the Champions League last 16.

The Norway midfielder, who missed the Carabao Cup semi-final second leg with the Blues due to a minor injury, told Men In Blazers: "We play to win everything.

"We want to win every game we play, every tournament we play, every trophy. That's the mindset."

The Gunners, who have finished runners-up in the Premier League for the past three seasons, resume their campaign at home to Sunderland on Saturday.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Carabao Cup Semi-final Second Leg

MAN CITY (3)..... 3 | **NEWCASTLE (0) ... 1**
Marmoush 7, 29
Reijnders 32
Elanga 62

Manchester City win 5-1 on aggregate.

William Hill Scottish Premiership

ABERDEEN ..... P | **CELTIC ..... P**

Postponed - due to waterlogged pitch.

DUNDEE ..... P | **MOTHERWELL ..... P**

Postponed - due to waterlogged pitch.

HIBERNIAN (1)..... 3 | **DUNDEE UTD (0) .. 2**
Boyle 36
Graham 89 (og)
Suto 90
Graham 74
Watters 81
Att: 17,655

LIVINGSTON (0) ..... 1 | **FALKIRK (2) 2**
McLennan 47
Wilson 6
Marsh 25

RANGERS (1) ..... 5 | **KILMARNCK (0).... 1**
Tavernier 5 (pen)
Miovski 58
Skov Olsen 74
Antman 89
Moore 90
Kiltie 84

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hearts	25	16	6	3	47	20	54
Rangers	25	14	9	2	42	18	51
Celtic	24	15	3	6	43	23	48
Motherwell	24	11	10	3	37	17	43
Hibernian	25	10	9	6	41	30	39
Falkirk	25	10	6	9	29	32	36
Aberdeen	24	8	4	12	26	33	28
Dundee Utd	24	5	10	9	30	40	25
St Mirren	24	5	8	11	18	31	23
Dundee	24	6	5	13	19	37	23
Kilmarnock	25	3	8	14	24	48	17
Livingston	25	1	8	16	25	52	11

GOLF

LIV GOLF RIYADH (Saudi Arabia)—**1st rnd** (USA unless stated, Par 72): **65** P Uihlein, T Detry (Bel), **66** E Smylie (Aus), **67** T Gooch, L Oosthuizen (Rsa), S Munoz (Col), Byeong-Hun An (Kor), J Rahm (Spa), T Hatton (Eng), **68** H Varner III, J Niemann (Chi), A Ancer (Mex), Y Asaji (Jpn), A Kim, S Vincent (Zim), B DeChambeau, S Garcia (Spa), **69** C Smith (Aus), D Burmester (Rsa), B Grace (Rsa), R T. Lee (Can), D Puig (Spa), R Bland (Eng), A Meronk (Pol), P Casey (Eng), A Lahiri (Ind), M La Sasso, Young-Han Song (Kor), **70** M Leishman (Aus), C Schwartzel (Rsa), C Ortiz (Mex), T Pieters (Bel), C Tringale, B Schmidt (Eng), **71** J Kokrak, J Luis Ballester (Spa), B Steele, D Lee (Nzl), C Surratt, M Tabuena (Phi), **72** L Canter (Eng), S Horsfield (Eng), B Campbell (Nzl), G McDowell (NIrl), B Hellgren (Swe), M Kaymer (Ger), D Johnson, T McKibbin (NIrl), I Poulter (Eng), O Schniederjans.

ICE HOCKEY

NHL: New Jersey Devils 0 Columbus Blue Jackets 3, Philadelphia Flyers 4 Washington Capitals 2, Carolina Hurricanes 4 Ottawa Senators 3, Tampa Bay Lightning 4 Buffalo Sabres 3 (OT), New York Islanders 5 Pittsburgh Penguins 4 (OT), Edmonton Oilers 2 Toronto Maple Leafs 5, Anaheim Ducks 4 Seattle Kraken 2.

SNOOKER

WST WORLD GRAND PRIX (Hong Kong)—**1st rd:** J Jones (Wal) bt N Robertson (Aus) 5-1; J Si (Chn) bt G Wilson (Eng) 5-2; R O'Sullivan (Eng) bt J O'Connor (Eng) 5-3; C Wakelin (Eng) bt T Un Nooh (Tha) 5-0; S Yuan (Chn) bt J Trump (Eng) 5-2; J Pang (Chn) bt S Murphy (Eng) 5-1; X Zhao (Chn) bt J Higgins (Sco) 5-3; A Carter (Eng) bt M Allen (NIrl) 5-4.

TENNIS

WTA TRANSYLVANIA OPEN (Romania)—**2nd rd:** X Wang (Chn) bt R Masarova (Swi) 6-4 6-2; A Potapova (Aut) bt A Zakharova (Rus) 1-6 6-4 6-3; M Chwalinska (Pol) bt O Danilovic (Ser) 6-1 1-6 6-2; D Snigur (Ukr) bt J Cristian (Rom) 6-1 6-0; S Cirstea (Rom) bt T Zidansek (Slo) 6-1 6-0; E Raducanu (Gbr) bt K Juvan (Slo) 7-5 6-1.
WTA OSTRAVA OPEN (Czech Republic)—**2nd rd:** T Korpatsch (Ger) bt E Arango (Col) 6-3 6-4; K Boulter (Gbr) bt V Golubic (Swi) 6-2 6-2; L Fruhvirtova (Cze) bt R Sramkova (Svk) 6-3 6-1; N Bartunkova (Cze) bt F Ferro (Fra) 6-4 3-6 6-1; D Parry (Fra) bt P Udvardy (Hun) 6-1 6-2.
WTA MUBADALA ABU DHABI OPEN (UAE)—**2nd rd:** E Alexandrova (Rus) bt D Yastremska (Ukr) 6-3 6-0; S Bejlek (Cze) bt J Ostapenko (Lat) 6-4 6-3; S Kartal (Gbr) bt R Zarazua (Mex) 6-0 6-3; A Eala (Phi) bt A Sasnovich (Blr) 2-6 6-4 7-6 (7-5).
ATP OPEN OCCITANIE (Montpellier, France)—**1st rd:** L Nardi (Ita) bt N Basilashvili (Geo) 6-3 6-3; A Kovacevic (USA) bt M Kouame (Fra) 6-7 (5-7) 6-2 6-2; S Wawrinka (Swi) bt H Medjedovic (Ser) 7-6 (7-3) 6-4; M Damm (USA) bt R Bautista Agut (Spa) 6-1 6-3; A Mannarino (Fra) bt U Humbert (Fra) 6-7 (4-7) 6-3 7-6 (7-4).

TODAY'S DIARY

Sky Bet League Two
Accrington v Salford City (8.01).....

SNOOKER
WST World Grand Prix (Hong Kong).

RUGBY UNION
Guinness Six Nations (8.10)**:** France v Ireland.

THE MIGHTY MOUSH

2-0
Marmoush takes a boot in the face as he bravely heads in his second goal

LEAGUE CUP

MAN CITY		NEWCASTLE
63	POSSESSION	37
8	SHOTS ON TARGET	5
4	SHOTS OFF TARGET	4
648	TOTAL PASSES	380
5	CORNERS	4
1	OFFSIDES	2
13	FOULS	14
0 3	CARDS	0 0

REF: Tony Harrington

LINE-UPS

MAN CITY (4-1-4-1): Trafford; Nunes, Khusanov, Ake (Alleyne 46), O'Reilly (Rodri 71); Gonzalez (Lewis 83); Semenyo (Haaland 71), Foden (Cherki 72), Reijnders, Ait Nouri; Marmoush.
NEWCASTLE (3-4-3): Ramsdale; Thiaw, Botman, Burn; Trippier (Osula 76), Ramsey, Tonali, Hall (Murphy 46); Willock (Elanga 46), Woltemade (Wissa 46), Gordon (Barnes 44).

MAN OF THE MATCH
OMAR MARMOUSH

DOWN AND OUT Gordon reacts after injuring his hamstring

MAN CITY	**3**
Marmoush 7, 29, Reijnders 32	
NEWCASTLE	**1**
Elanga 62	
Man City win 5-1 on aggregate	

Omar's two good for Toon as City romp to Wembley

BY **JEREMY CROSS**

OMAR MARMOUSH helped himself to a double to fire Manchester City into the Carabao Cup final and leave Newcastle feeling punch drunk.

Eddie Howe's men might have been huge underdogs following their first-leg defeat.

But Newcastle's defence of the trophy was crushed with little more than a whimper from the holders.

City were in cruise control from start to finish and will now look forward to a crunch showdown with title rivals Arsenal in the final. Marmoush scored twice before half-time and Tijjani Reijnders added a third to rub Newcastle's noses in the dirt.

The first of the many trophies Guardiola has won as City boss was the Carabao Cup.

That triumph came over Arsenal back in 2018 – and Guardiola will be looking for a repeat result of that occasion when the heavyweights collide again on Sunday, March 22.

He knew City had been in pole position to start getting measured up for their Wembley suits, having secured a two-goal advantage from the first leg at St James' Park. The visitors had a mountain to climb – and even history wasn't on their side.

No team had ever reached a Carabao Cup final after losing the opening leg at home by two or more goals.

Throw in the fact that Newcastle had won just once at the Etihad and not scored a goal there in almost eight years, and the outcome appeared to be a forgone conclusion.

But that seemed to be the case during last weekend's game between Tottenham and City – and look how that panned out?

1-0
City ace gets lucky as his shot deflects off Burn and goes over Ramsdale's head

3-1
Elanga ensures Toon win the second half with this classy finish after a fine run

3-0
Reijnders ends Toon's reign as holders by calmly slotting a loose ball into the net

Guardiola must have felt relaxed though, because he left Rodri, Erling Haaland and Gianluigi Donnarumma on the bench.

Perhaps he knew something we didn't.

Because it took City less than seven minutes to go ahead.

Marmoush broke clear and burst into the box, and when Dan Burn slid in to challenge him, the ball ricocheted back off his shins, over Aaron Ramsdale and into the open goal.

Guardiola jumped in the air pumping his fist. He knew the contest was over.

Newcastle now needed some sort of miracle.

James Trafford denied Joe Willock and Anthony Gordon as Howe's men looked to give themselves something to cling to.

But City appeared to be queuing up to score at the opposite end.

Reijnders flashed a shot across the face of Ramsdale's goal while Rayan Ait-Nouri saw another effort deflected just wide.

And somehow no one in a blue shirt could convert a cross from Antoine Semenyo minutes later.

But the Newcastle dam burst before half time when Marmoush and Reijnders pounced in quick succession to pile on the pain for Howe and his flops.

Reijnders slotted home following more good work by Semenyo. This was just three minutes after Marmoush bagged his brace with a close-range header after Kieran Trippier failed to clear a Semenyo cross.

The challenge for the visitors now was to salvage some pride.

Sven Botman tried to restore some but saw his header superbly saved by the impressive Trafford.

After Anthony Gordon damaged his hamstring, Howe threw on Jacob Murphy, Anthony Elanga and Yoane Wissa in the hope of limiting the humiliation.

But it continued when Wissa found himself with just Trafford to beat but couldn't even hit the target with his first touch.

However, the Toon Army did have something to cheer about when Elanga – who had looked lively since coming on – created a pocket of space for himself inside the box and bent the ball past Trafford to make it 3-1 on the night, and a slightly more respectable 5-1 on aggregate.

And Harvey Barnes then had the ball in the back of the City net but it was ruled out by an offside flag, ending any thoughts of a valiant comeback.

City can now start preparing for what feels like their annual pilgrimage to Wembley.

Because their next one will be the 22nd since Guardiola took charge in 2016.

STINKER It's painful viewing for Newcastle boss Howe

AL'S WELL Cristiano Ronaldo

Cristiano's cooled off just in time

BY **JOSHUA PECK**

CRISTIANO RONALDO is back training with Al-Nassr following a reported bust-up over the Saudi Pro League club's lack of recent transfer activity.

The 40-year-old Portugal forward missed Monday's 1-0 victory at Al-Riyadh but he is set play in tomorrow's match against Al-Ittihad.

He had played in every previous league game this season but was not even named in Jorge Jesus' squad for the Al-Riyadh clash.

Reports had suggested Ronaldo was unhappy with the running of the club by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund which also owns rivals Al-Hilal, Al-Ahli and Al-Ittihad, amid concerns other teams had been given preferential treatment in the transfer market.

But the former Real Madrid and Manchester United marksman could well have put his concerns behind him and made up with the Al-Nassr hierarchy in time for their next match.

He posted a picture of himself on X controlling the ball in training, also including two love-heart emojis in blue and yellow – the Riyadh club's colours.

LGBTQ fans action call

CAMPAIGN groups are highlighting a rise in "disgusting" homophobia in football.

LGBTQ+ fan groups from Chelsea and Leeds have highlighted the issue and are calling for action from football's authorities and social media platforms.

Football v Homophobia campaign director Lou Englefield said: "Everyone involved in football must recognise how this is impacting the game, while those in positions of responsibility should take a visible and practical stand."

The Premier League is launching its new Premier League With Pride initiative today.

DX1ST

DAILY EXPRESS SPORT
express.co.uk/sport

FAREWELL TO SNOOKER'S SHOWMAN

JOHN VIRGO TRIBUTE: PAGES 8-9

Baz comes out swinging in defence of Harry

CRICKET: P52

MAN CITY 3 1 NEWCASTLE

Carabao Cup

Semi-Final, Agg 5-1

EGYPTIAN TOON RAIDER

FINAL SAY: Marmoush double delighted Guardiola (below)

Marmoush buries Newcastle to set up Arsenal showdown

BY **JEREMY CROSS**

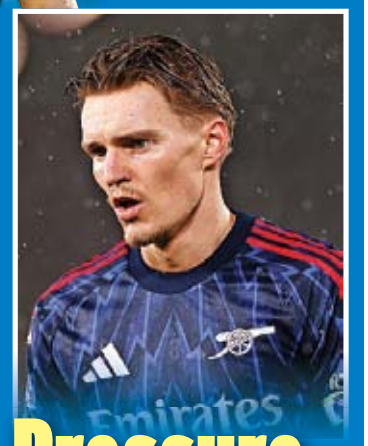
OMAR MARMOUSH struck twice to set Manchester City on their way to a Carabao Cup final clash with title rivals Arsenal.

Already leading holders Newcastle 2-0 from the first leg, Pep Guardiola's men put the tie to bed when the Egypt star scored twice in the opening half-hour at the Etihad.

Tijjani Reijnders added a third to pile on the misery for the Toon, who pulled one back through sub Anthony Elanga.

The final will be played at Wembley on March 22.

MATCH REPORT: PAGES 58-59



Pressure point from Odegaard

BY **JOHN CROSS**

MARTIN ODEGAARD insists Arsenal can handle the pressure of the title race.

The Gunners captain admits the players are aware of the jitters inside the Emirates as the club chase down their first Premier League title in 22 years.

Mikel Arteta's men are in the hunt for four trophies and Odegaard (above) admitted their recent near missies can work to their advantage.

Of the tension inside their stadium, he said: "Sometimes you can feel it, obviously. But whenever we come to the Emirates, the atmosphere is always amazing.

"Of course they're going to feel nervous at some point if we're defending a lead or whatever. So,

TURN TO PAGE 57, COLUMN 2

ENGLAND FIRED BY ROAR POWER

SIX NATIONS: PAGES 54-55

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Puzzles

SUDOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, row, and 3x3 square includes all of the digits from one to nine. **Solutions tomorrow**

EASY

8		3					2	7
	7	2		3				5
	1			8			4	
3		9	8		1			6
	8	4				9	7	
7			9		4			8
	9			4			1	3
1				5	9	8	6	
4	6					7		

MEDIUM

	7	1			8		6	
8	3			1				5
		5	4			2		
	8		3				4	
4				6	7			2
	6				5		8	
		7				4		6
9			7	5			3	
	5		6			7	2	

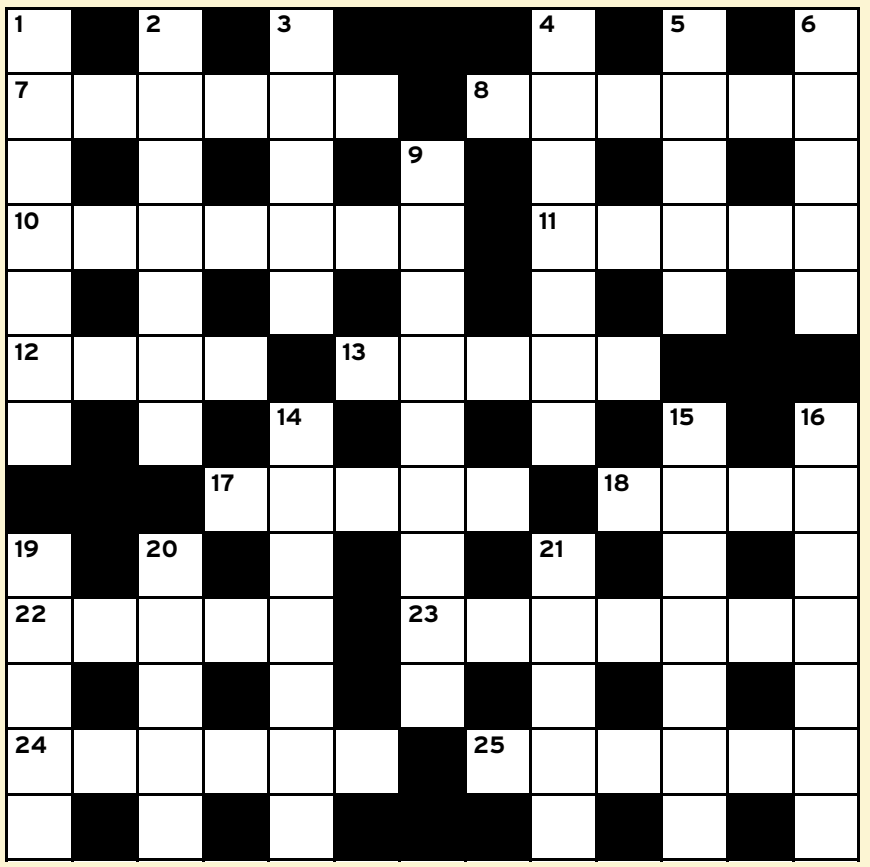
DIFFICULT

	9			4				
8		5		9			7	
		3				8	5	
			2		8	3		7
6		7	9		4			
	4	6				1		
	3			1		7		4
				5			2	

Extra clues: **0901 322 5609**
**Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

Today's solution: **0907 181 2573**
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS
7 Gate (6)
8 Crush (6)
10 Relief (7)
11 Quash (5)
12 Brink (4)
13 Sorcery (5)
17 Packing-case (5)
18 Carry (4)
22 Despondency (5)
23 Irksome (7)
24 Whole (6)
25 Chase (6)

DOWN
1 Boxed (7)
2 Forebode (7)
3 Morning (5)
4 Filthy (7)
5 Weak (5)
6 Offspring (5)
9 Lay waste (9)
14 First (7)
15 Compunction (7)
16 Urged (7)
19 Ornamental tag (5)
20 Plunder (5)
21 Hatred (5)

Solution tomorrow

Stuck on the puzzle? Call **0905 789 4188** to hear individual clues or the full solution

Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. Service provider Spoke Ltd - **Helpline 0333 202 3390*

CROSS DOUBT

Target times: Average: **18 mins** Good: **14 mins** Excellent: **10 mins**

Stuck? Call for a clue
0901 322 5601
Halve your Target Time!

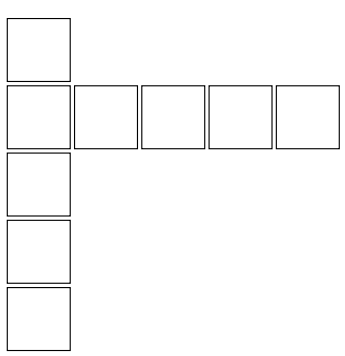
Today's solution
0901 322 5607
Both today's words in a moment!

**Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

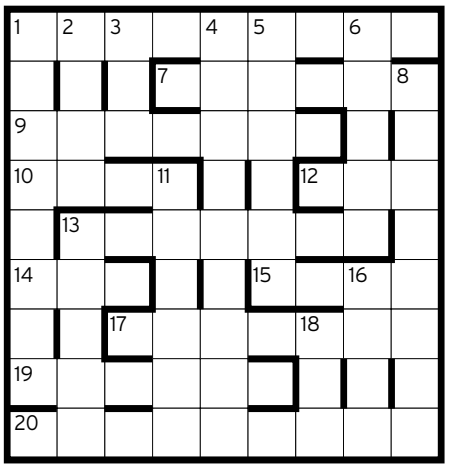
Can you make two common five-letter words from the nine letters given, using each letter only once? You can – but only if one letter features in both words in the squares on the right. There's at least one way to do it, and you have to have the right letter at the crossover – but which one is it?

See if you can find the answer within our target time. If you need help, ring our clue-line below to find out the crossover letter. Solution tomorrow

E F G G I L N N U



SMALL CROSSWORD



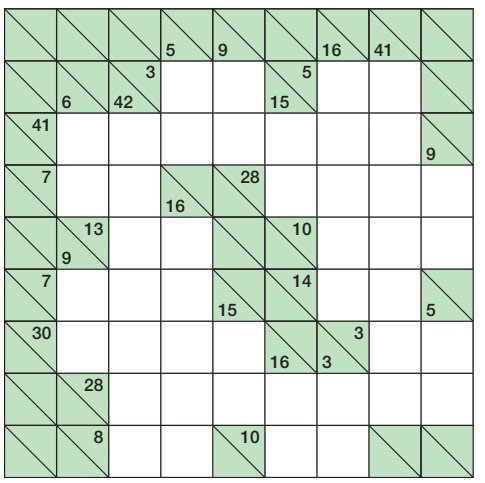
ACROSS
1 Place of learning (9)
7 Musical dramas (6)
9 Internal organ (7)
10 Bodies of water (4)
12 Falsehood (3)
13 Members of the clergy (7)
14 Old word for 'your' (3)
15 Long audible breath (4)
17 Car, for example (7)
19 Cultural, national (6)
20 Deferred (9)

DOWN
1 Music tape (8)
2 Stringed instrument (4)
3 Fuss or commotion (3)
4 Cash pipes (anag.) (9)
5 Niche (6)
6 Fertile spot in a desert (5)
8 Cybill _, actress (8)
11 Totally quiet (6)
13 Snapshot (5)
16 Adhesive substance (4)
18 Metal container (3)

Solution tomorrow

For today's solution call:
0907 181 2582
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

KAKURO



Fill each sequence of blank squares using the numbers 1-9. Each sequence – across and down – must total the number in the shaded box at the beginning or top of each line. A number may be repeated in each line but NOT in a sequence.

Solution tomorrow

Puzzles

QUIZWORD

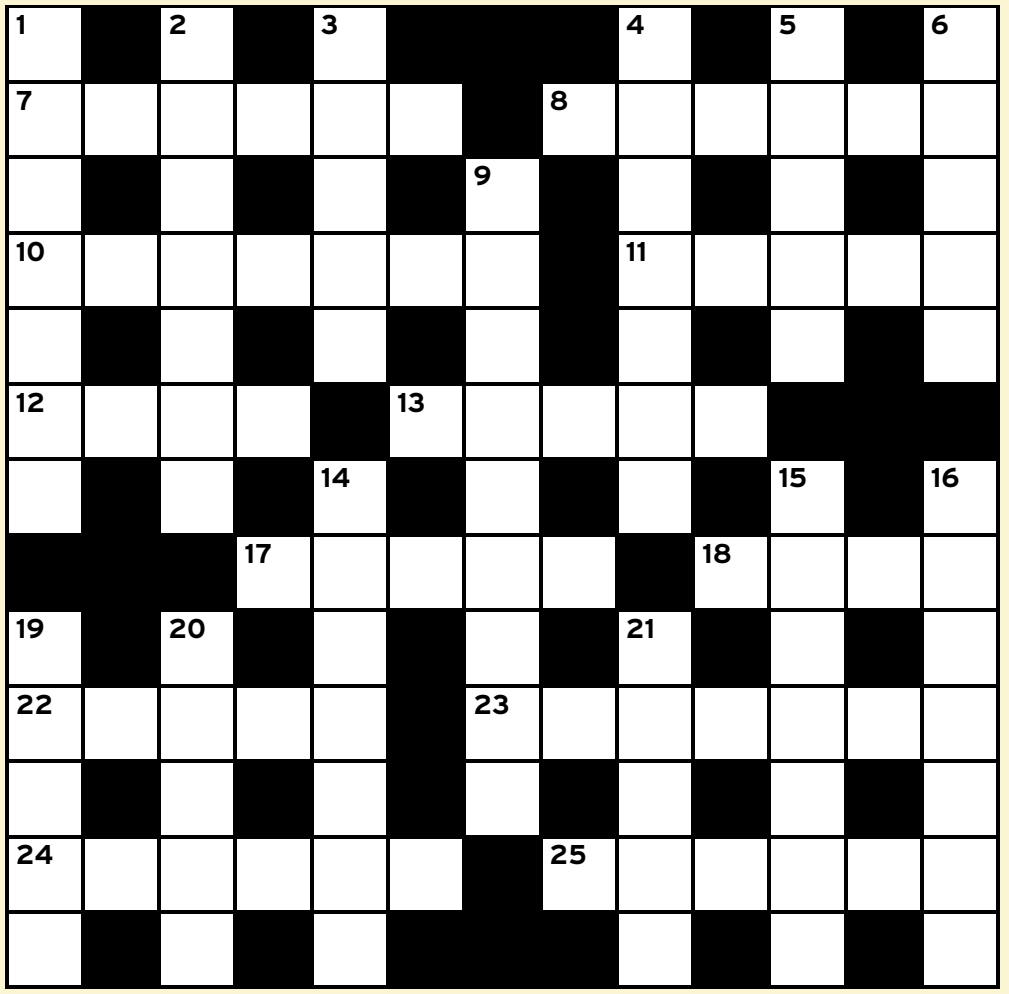
ACROSS

7 Peter, eight-time Best Actor in a Leading Role Oscar nominee given an Honorary Award in 2003 (6)
8 & 1 Down American football team that won Super Bowl XXX in 1996 (6,7)
10 Legendary French minstrel associated with Richard I of England (7)
11 & 24 US comedian who played the title role in the film Bowfinger (5,6)
12 River of France that flows through Belgium into the North Sea at Nieuwpoort (4)
13 See 20 Down
17 John, politician who served as foreign secretary, home secretary and chancellor of the Exchequer in the 1930s and 40s (5)
18 See 22
22 & 18 Character 'adopted' by Silas Marner in the book of that name by George Eliot (5,4)
23 Hard rubber also called vulcanite used for electrical insulators (7)
24 See 11
25 Florence art gallery damaged by flooding in 1966 (6)

DOWN

1 See 8 Across
2 Light, hollow roll made from Yorkshire pudding batter (7)
3 River in Scotland that flows through Glasgow (5)
4 Female spirit in Irish folklore whose wailing warns of impending death (7)
5 Tree whose wood is used for bridges because it resists underwater rot (5)
6 City in Germany that is the leading administrative centre of the Ruhr (5)
9 High-pitched musical instrument of the recorder family (9)
14 Region of central Europe around the upper and middle Oder valley (7)
15 Autonomous region of Spain which includes the province of Lugo (7)
16 Comic book Gaul created by Albert Uderzo and René Goscinny (7)
19 City in eastern France which was the scene of the coronation of most French monarchs (5)
20 & 13 Across US vice president from 1969 to 1973 (5,5)
21 James, soldier who commanded the British capture of Quebec in 1759 (5)

Solution tomorrow



Stuck on the puzzle? Call
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to hear individual clues or the full solution
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SAMURAI SUDOKU

In Samurai Sudoku, normal sudoku rules apply, but the 9x9 sudoku at the centre shares four of its 3x3 boxes with those of the outer sudokus.

Solution tomorrow

4			2		1			
						5	3	4
6		7		4			2	
	5		1			9		8
	4	1			9			
			4		7		1	
8		3						
			7		4			
2				9				

			4		6			1
2	4	6						
	9			5		4		2
9		8			4		1	
			3			7	5	
	7		1		9			
						9		4
			6		8			
				4				5

					1			
2		1						
	7							
	5							
8			1					
			1		8			
			6					

7				8				
			4		2			
9		8						
			8		7		9	
	1	6			9			
	9		6			4		2
5		9		6			2	
						8	5	7
4			2		8			

			8					1
			6		5			
5		7						4
	7		5		1			
			8			4	1	
9		1			6		5	
	5			4		9		7
7	2	3						
			3		7			6

WORD BUILDER

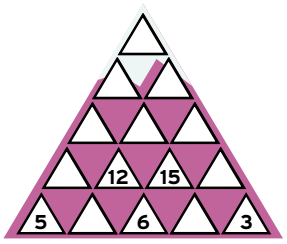
Answer each clue so that every word contains the same letters as the previous word, plus or minus one.

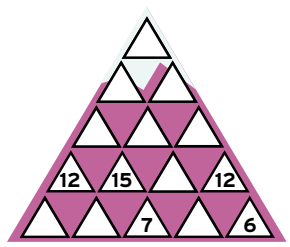
Solution tomorrow

1	□□□	1 Drink delicately
2	□□□□	2 Rotate
3	□□□□□	3 Liquid quantities
4	□□□□□□	4 Medical stiffener
5	□□□□□	5 Cleft
6	□□□□	6 Sediment
7	□□□	7 Illuminated

SUMMIT UP

If the number in each triangle is the sum of the two below, what is the top number?



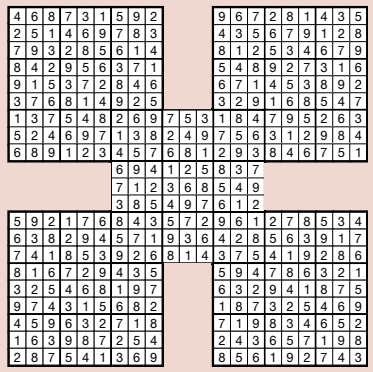


Solution tomorrow

QUIZWORD

Across:
1 Below,
4 Hawkeye,
8 Ortolan,
9 Isère,
10 Hash,
11 The Enemy,
13 Tree,
14 Bolt,
16 Guerrero,
17 Asch,
20 Ibiza,
21 Chicago,
22 Meerkat,
23 Triad.
Down:
1 Brothers Grimm,
2 Lotus,
3 Walk,
4 Honshu,
5 White Sox,
6 Everest,
7 Evelyn Ashford,
12 Deer Park,
13 The Line,
15 Brecht,
18 Stasi,
19 Lint.

SAMURAI SUDOKU



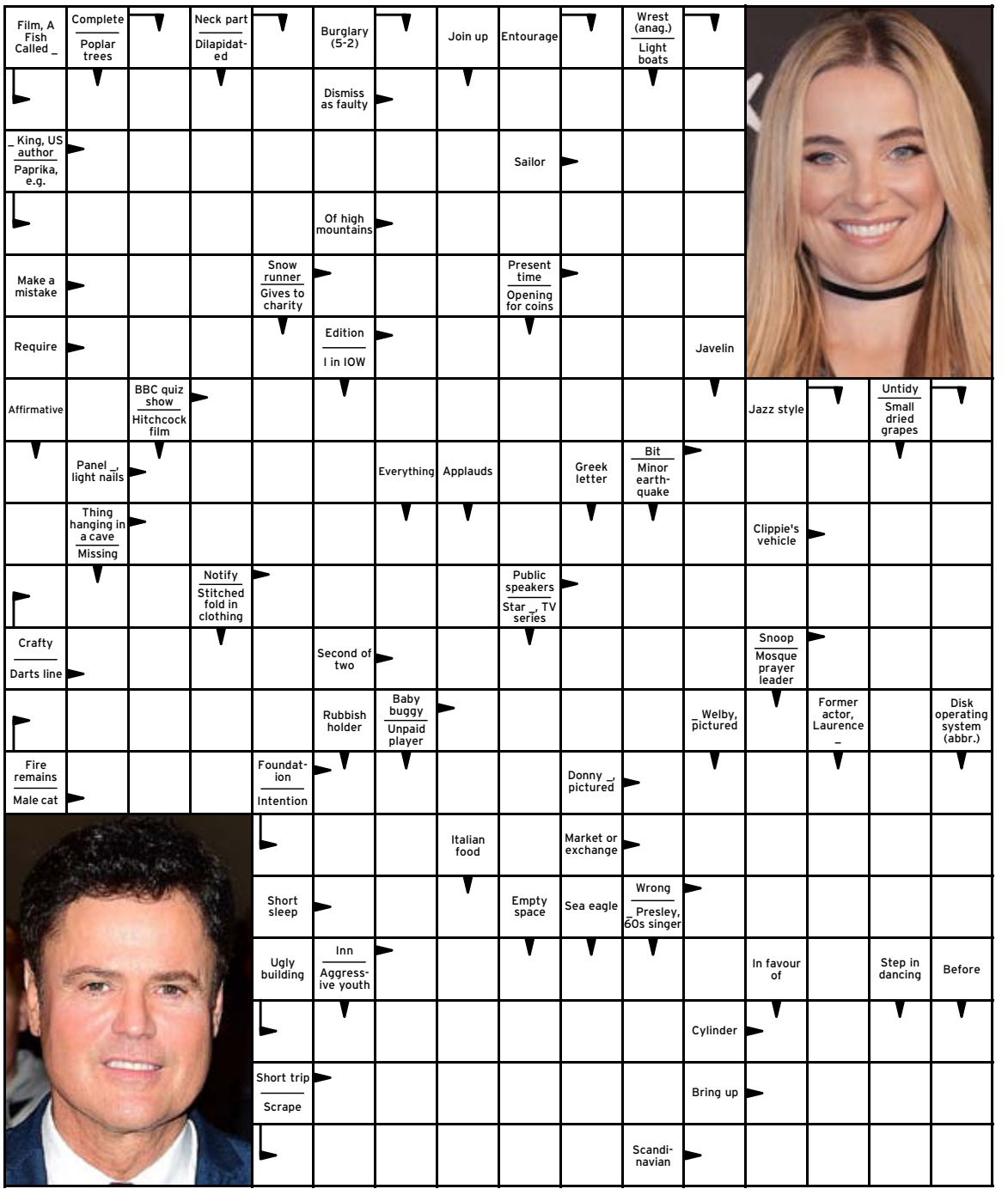
SMALL CROSSWORD

Across: 1 Evermore, **8** Humane, **9** Pour, **10** Ban, **11** Elicit, **13** Directive, **15** Chisel, **17** Ely, **18** Sane, **19** Namely, **20** Deflates.
Down: 1 Expedient, **2** Violin, **3** Etui, **4** Music hall, **5** Omit, **6** Rabbi, **7** Senseless, **12** Avenge, **14** Rhyme, **15** Clef, **16** Salt.

ARROW-WORD

Arrow-words are like crosswords, but the clues are printed inside squares on the grid. Write your answers in the blank squares in the direction indicated by the arrows.

Solution tomorrow



WORDSEARCH

S	C	P	M	V	E	N	O	T	S	G	B	F	J	H
U	L	N	O	S	T	A	W	C	X	J	V	N	K	A
R	K	O	Z	R	D	T	F	R	E	U	D	I	E	M
A	Q	T	F	F	V	W	E	H	U	Q	Y	R	N	I
Z	X	N	H	N	X	B	O	N	B	T	R	R	N	L
A	V	U	U	F	A	P	A	O	R	M	P	O	E	T
L	P	B	W	Z	C	C	T	W	D	A	R	C	D	O
R	L	E	D	V	U	X	V	I	Y	H	B	U	Y	N
P	O	I	E	D	X	C	T	L	O	E	O	T	W	C
A	U	Y	A	L	N	N	N	L	S	S	K	U	B	O
B	Z	R	T	S	O	R	F	I	R	L	P	C	S	N
B	C	U	U	U	B	X	B	S	M	Q	Q	D	A	E
U	L	W	S	T	R	E	B	O	R	M	M	O	S	M
Y	R	B	H	P	T	H	O	M	P	S	O	N	B	F
E	O	C	H	A	M	B	E	R	S	T	V	Q	G	V

FAMOUS EMMAS

Find all the terms listed below in the grid.

Solution tomorrow

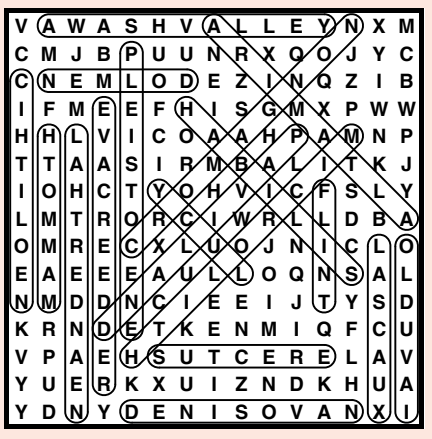
BARNETT ● BUNTON ● CHAMBERS ● CORRIN FREUD ● FROST ● HAMILTON ● KENNEDY LAZARUS ● MACKEY ● PEEL ● RADUCANU ROBERTS ● STONE ● THOMPSON ● WATSON WILLIS ● WOODHOUSE

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

QUICK CROSSWORD

Across: 1 Event, **4** Hateful, **8** Thicken, **9** Owing, **10** Bred, **11** Brooklet, **13** Trip, **14** Eggs, **16** Harmless, **17** Drug, **20** Emend, **21** Elector, **22** Tatters, **23** Flood.
Down: 1 Establishment, **2** Elite, **3** Take, **4** Hungry, **5** Thorough, **6** Foibles, **7** Light-fingered, **12** Dislodge, **13** Torment, **15** Assess, **18** Ratio, **19** Serf.

WORDSEARCH



ARROW-WORD

	T		H		C		S		P	
T	O	M	A	T	O		L	O	O	T
	P		L		U	M	A		L	
D	I	S	O	W	N		P	H	A	S
		I		E	T	A		A	N	T
D	O	D	D	L	E		R	I	D	E
	P		I	S	R	A	E	L		E
D	U	T	C	H		R	I	S	E	R
	L		T		E	G	G		R	
D	E	B	A	R	S		N	O	N	E
	N	E	T		P	A	S	T	E	L
A	C	T	O	R		P		T		I
	E	A	R		F	R	E	E		T

S										

SUDOKU EASY

8	2	5	7	6	9	1	3	4
1	6	4	5	8	3	2	9	7
9	3	7	4	2	1	6	8	5
2	8	3	6	5	4	9	7	1
4	9	6	2	1	7	3	5	8
5	7	1	9	3	8	4	2	6
6	5	9	1	7	2	8	4	3
3	1	2	8	4	5	7	6	9
7	4	8	3	9	6	5	1	2

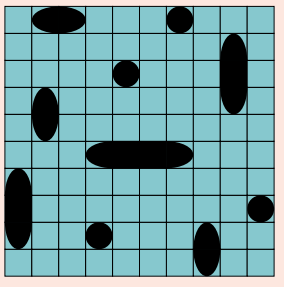
SUDOKU MEDIUM

3	9	8	5	6	2	1	7	4
4	1	2	7	8	9	3	6	5
5	6	7	3	1	4	9	2	8
9	7	3	6	4	8	2	5	1
8	5	1	9	2	7	4	3	6
6	2	4	1	5	3	8	9	7
7	3	6	8	9	1	5	4	2
1	4	5	2	3	6	7	8	9
2	8	9	4	7	5	6	1	3

SUDOKU DIFFICULT

3	1	9	6	2	4	7	8	5
6	8	5	3	1	7	4	2	9
2	4	7	5	8	9	6	3	1
9	6	1	2	4	3	8	5	7
8	5	4	7	6	1	2	9	3
7	3	2	8	9	5	1	4	6
5	2	6	1	3	8	9	7	4
4	7	8	9	5	6	3	1	2
1	9	3	4	7	2	5	6	8

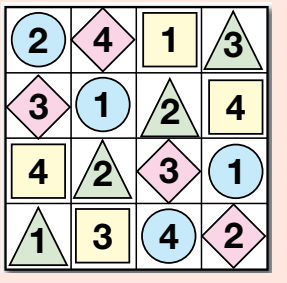
BATTLESHIPS



KAKURO

		2	1			1	2
		4	2		2	4	3	1
	8	1		7	1	9		
	4	3	2	1		6	2	1
	9	5	1		1	8	9	2
			3	1	2		8	3
	3	1	4	2		1	6	
	9	2				2	7	

KEIJO



TARGET

CYBERPUNK
bren, bucker, bunker, burn, burp, bury, buyer, byre, crepy, curb, cure, CYBERPUNK, ecru, kerb, knur, penury, perk, perky, prey, prune, pucker, pure, pyre, rube, ruby, ruck, rune

THE ALPHAPUZZLE

Across: Moat, Wasteful, Regular, Pecan, Islet, Picnic, Apathy, Avenge, Superb, Caste, Otter, Conjure, Reckless, Stay.
Down: Marzipan, Door, Angel, Aquatic, Blotch, Enrol (clue), Abrupt, Abacus, Topic, Vacant, Fiction, Squat, Lynx, Cemetery.

THE ALPHABEATER

Black squares: 1, 5, 10, 15, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 29, 33, 37, 40.
Across: Water, Biscuit, Laxly, Schedules, Fake, Tuba, Exploit, Zinc, Land, Destroyed, Optic, Bivouac, Other. **Down:** Fizzed, Agama, Emir, Execution, Rays, Chop, Today, Fiver, Ogre, Dojo, Acquittal, Bike, Noise, Swayed.

CROSS DOUBT

Across: RIVER
Down: ROVES

SUMMIT UP

56 and 83

WORD BUILDER

The, Etch, Retch, Trench, Tench, Then, Hen

Puzzles

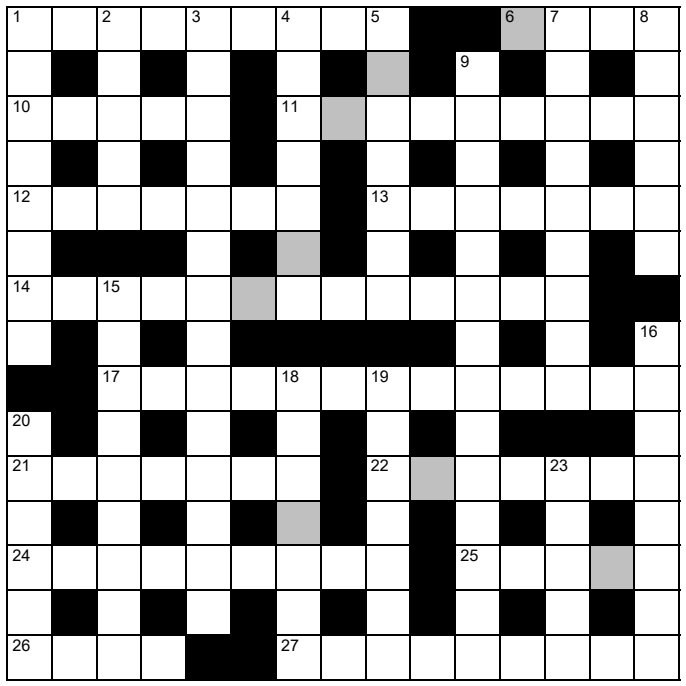
CRUSADER PRIZE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Soldiers object – I got caught scrounging (9)
6 Fellow winner, no longer married (4)
10 Bean shows a sign of life (5)
11 Doing a new relative identification (9)
12 British union with right to riot about Mexican dish (7)
13 Tune left in point of departure (7)
14 Treasure hunter's tool to create mottled design (5,8)
17 Broke it in semifinal, being very small (13)
21 Mental, worrying about one complaint (7)
22 Preparing rip-off dynasty (7)
24 After things malfunction, Kitty joins club (9)
25 Soldier, with a book, becomes a huge figure (5)
26 That explains about loathing (4)
27 Eddy tired, performing immoral act (5,4)

DOWN

1 Explosive smoker to fail (4,4)
2 It makes a straight line for the sovereign (5)
3 Emergency cop brings about impressive visuals (7,7)
4 After time, notice European youngster (7)
5 Game never ends – it's a farce (7)
7 Oars might muddle graph (9)
8 A steep change in old money (6)
9 Openly trusting is absurd without complaint (14)
15 Pursue flimsy car part (4,5)
16 Thin journalist gets insulted (8)
18 Observe home has something to write on (7)
19 Racing expert gets mine back and rest moved (7)
20 Suspicion about a rump (6)
23 Furious buccaneer loses head (5)



WIN £100 CASH

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN
Read down the letters in the highlighted squares to reveal the mystery word.

TO ENTER: Call **0904 161 3700** (calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge) and leave your answer and details, or text **DXCRUS** followed by a space, your answer, name and address details to **88833** (texts cost £1.50 plus your standard network rate). Lines close at midnight Saturday. Or send your grid containing the answer in the shaded squares by posting it to: Crusader Crossword, February 5, PO Box 8694, Derby DE1 9TW. Entries must be postmarked by February 6 at the latest. For any postal enquiries, call helpline number. SP: Spoke – 0333 202 3390.
An extra day is given for postal entries during bank holidays.
● ***One weekly winner will be the first random correct entry drawn from all entry routes after the closing date of midnight Saturday. Competition runs Sunday to Saturday. The Editor's decision is final.***

NEED HELP? Call **0904 161 1609** for 5 extra clues! Calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge.

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

TUESDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Buck, 3 Rugby match, 9 Romp, 10 Disgusting, 11 Elephantine, 15 Washing-up, 17 Learn, 18 Rotor, 19 Lorgnette, 20 Incarnation, 24 All fired up, 25 Tuna, 26 Orange tree, 27 Mesh. **DOWN:** 1 Barbed wire, 2 Compensate, 4 Union, 5 Big dipper, 6 Miscellanea, 7 Trio, 8 Huge, 12 Hair-raising, 13 Last-minute, 14 Underneath, 16 Goldcrest, 21 Route, 22 Mayo, 23 Flea.
Prizeword: Category

TARGET

D	E	T
I	U	T
P	A	L

● *The Target uses words in the main body of Chambers 21st Century Dictionary (1999 edition)*

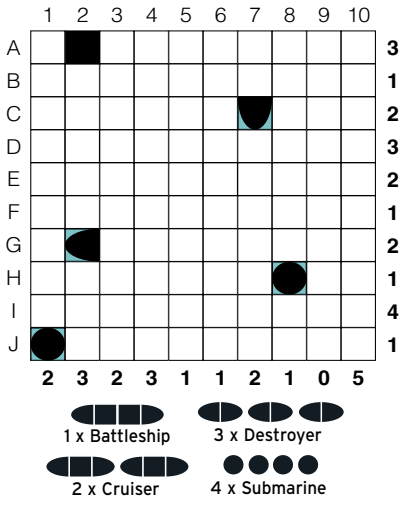
HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here?
In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word. No plurals. Verb forms ending in S permitted.

TODAY'S TARGET
Good 14; **very good** 21; **excellent** 28 **(or more).** Solution tomorrow

Call **0907 181 2585**
for today's Target solution
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

BATTLESHIPS

FIND where the fleet of ships shown is hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some squares have been filled in to start you off.
Solution tomorrow



THE ALPHABEATER

TARGET TIME: 34 minutes

CAN you crack the Alphabeater? Each grid number represents a letter – or black square. As in Alphapuzzle, every letter of the alphabet is used. But you have to complete the grid too! Use the given letters and black squares below the grid to start. The grid is 'rotationally symmetrical' – in other words, it looks the same if you turn the page upside down.
Solution tomorrow

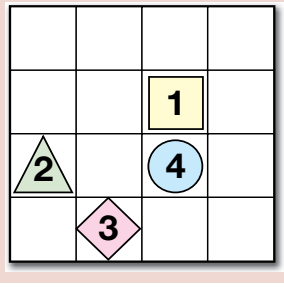
Extra letter clues
0907 181 2560
(Deduct three minutes for each extra clue letter heard)
Full solution
0907 181 2558
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

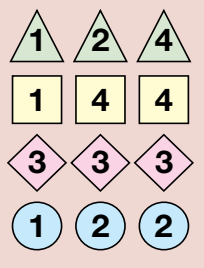
A	40	14	8	6	16	21	4	35	14	36	29	39	12
B	12	11	38	15	36	30	2	12	31	21	9	15	14
C	20	21	17	27	10	38	20	3	33	2	36	11	30
D	3	4	40	31	18	27	17	6	23	19	16	21	34
E	32	21	11	14	20	26	19	40	17	22	15	2	3
F	13	5	22	19	2	15	39	33	4	13	11	40	18
G	10	14	5	29	21	30	9	18	35	26	39	21	34
H	36	28	15	12	32	9	21	8	22	37	1	31	26
I	1	29	37	13	32	2	10	2	4	21	23	14	20
J	11	21	19	19	21	35	14	20	1	25	13	4	28
K	22	24	40	28	37	18	20	26	32	21	4	35	19
L	16	21	25	14	9	1	18	28	38	21	3	14	18
M	30	27	38	29	14	4	7	15	17	27	14	20	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
		■									■				H				
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
												O						P	

● Alternatively, for six Extra Letter clues to your mobile, text **DXBEAT** to **64343.** Texts cost £1 plus standard network rate.

KEIJO





Place the tiles into the grid so that four different numbers and four different shapes appear in each row and column.
Solution tomorrow

THE ALPHAPUZZLE®

Alphapuzzle® tests logic and word power. Each grid number stands for a letter. Every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter or letters – below the main grid – to start. Solution tomorrow

DIFFICULTY: 8/10; **TARGET:** 25 mins; **CLUE:** It's not her, we heard, in service.

A	23	5	20	25	26	4	■	2	5	19	1	3	17
B	■	25	■	13	■	20	21	5	■	20	■	23	■
C	15	1	9	9	■	19	■	6	■	7	9	5	11
D	■	7	■	12	18	20	19	6	5	20	■	1	■
E	4	13	21	25	■	22	■	20	■	19	12	6	20
F	20	■	20	■	4	13	6	19	24	■	26	■	24
G	24	11	20	6	■	■	5	■	■	3	26	24	19
H	18	■	17	■	24	6	12	8	17	■	5	■	9
I	20	24	3	20	■	10	■	1	■	8	19	20	13
J	■	18	■	22	19	24	18	24	6	12	■	11	■
K	22	24	19	22	■	19	■	14	■	16	1	17	4
L	■	1	■	20	■	7	20	14	■	20	■	12	■
M	20	9	5	6	20	3	■	24	1	19	1	9	13

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
			H									Y	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
		K											

EXTRA LETTER CLUES: 0907 181 2568*
Hear up to six Extra Letters, deduct two minutes for each clue letter heard.
FULL SOLUTION: **0907 181 2565***
ACROSS ONLY: **0907 181 2561*** / DOWN ONLY: **0907 181 2562***
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

Alternatively, for six extra letter clues direct to your mobile, text **DXALPHA** *to* **64343.** *Texts cost £1 plus standard network rate.*

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THE DAILY EXPRESS 30-SECOND CHALLENGE

TODAY'S ANSWERS: BEGINNER = 42; INTERMEDIATE = 26; ADVANCED = 379.

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